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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 875)

Name of Candidate	MUKUL JAMLOKI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	28393
Center	Old Rajendra Nagar	Date	11-10-17

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. Centralising recruitment through an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS) will not address the multiple problems in the judiciary and cause new ones instead. Critically evaluate.

   अखिल भारतीय न्यायिक सेवा (AIJS) के माध्यम से केंद्रीयकृत भर्ती न्यायपालिका में विद्यमान विभिन्न समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं करेगा अपितु उसके स्थान पर नई समस्याएं उत्पन्न करेगा। आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

It's been long recommended that there's a need to centralise recruitment through an All India Judicial Service, which could address the multiple problems in the judiciary. (eg. ARC1, Punchi Comm)

However, the problems in the judiciary are more of the fundamental nature and require structural reforms.

· inadequacy in the number of judges; ratio of 15.5/million in India while 107/million in the USA;

· culture of adjournments and reservation of judgements → hence excruciatingly slow

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judicial process; more than 30 million pending cases in the entire judiciary;

- lack of adequate alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as plea bargaining, fast-track courts, etc;
- the failure of the collegium process to select and appoint the best brains to the Bench;
- lack of infra & revenue resources;
- docket explosion, particularly with respect to PILs;
- the government is the biggest litigant, and the attitude "let the courts decide"

AIJS, although has some merit, but won't change things much

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until the above broad-based multiple structural reforms take place. It rather would create problems with respect to seniority, uniformity & pattern of syllabus clearly disadvantaging those from rural areas, and a problem for the settled Collegium process.

Justice must be seen as a public good and a fundamental right by the State. Hence AIJS may also be institutionalised, but not without structural reforms and a broad-based consensus.

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2. The roots of the most pertinent challenges faced by Indian politics today can be traced to the lack of intra-party democracy in candidate selection and internal elections. Discuss.

वर्तमान समय में भारतीय राजनीति द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली सबसे महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों के चिन्हों को उम्मीदवार के चयन और आंतरिक चुनावों में दलों के भीतर लोकतंत्र की कमी में देखा जा सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Indian politics today is ~~are~~ plagued by the lack of democratic ethos and decline of ethical-moral principles in the functioning of political parties.

In some parties, there's dynastic succession, and in some tickets are distributed on the basis of money power. In some, pressure groups act as valuable instruments ~~while~~ in candidate selection, while in some criminal elements have come together to pursue money laundering in the name of political parties.

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There's criminalisation, communalisation, casteism and corruption in the inner politics of parties. Parliamentary democracy's emphasis on numbers exacerbates this crisis.

~~Inner-pa~~ Intra-party democracy exists only for the name sake and candidate selection is usually made by the party high command. This culture of high command disrupts development of grassroots level politics and incentivises workers to cozy up with the main leaders instead of focussing on social work.

To counter these challenges, the following measures can be institutionalised:

- codifying a separate chapter in the Constitution wrt internal functioning of political parties;
- broad-based statutory provisions wrt

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revokation of members indulging in not just illegal acts, but ethically immoral acts;

· giving punitive powers to Election Commission, esp under Schedule X;

· judiciary taking a pro-active role in implementing sections of RPA '50 & '51;

The Indian democracy can not flourish until inner-party democracy is nurtured in political parties.

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3. While the idea behind merger of autonomous bodies in India is to curb overlapping work and reduce expenditure, it may end up doing more harm than good. Discuss.

यद्यपि भारत में स्वायत्त निकायों के विलय के पीछे निहित कारण उनके कार्यों में व्याप्त अतिव्यापन को रोकना और व्यय को कम करना है, लेकिन यह स्थिति को सुधारने के स्थान पर अधिक नुकसान कर सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Autonomous bodies in India are usually quasi-judicial in nature, such as the CBSE, or the Competition Commission, or the Sports Authority of India, etc.

However, there's an idea increasingly occupying the political ideology that there's a need to ~~over~~ curb overlapping work & reduce expenditure, especially wrt the tribunals established under Articles 323A and 323B.

The same was implemented via the Finance Bill (Amendment) Act, 2017 to merge as many as eight tribunals, and

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give executive control wrt the rules for employment and appointment to these bodies.

The arguments given in favour of this rationalisation of tribunals is to produce efficiency, economy ~~and~~ and equity in their functioning. Hence they would discharge their original aim: imparting quick and inexpensive justice, in both letter & spirit.

However, this rationalisation and merger seems to be ~~reachoration~~ in haste, because:

- unintelligent merger, eg. Airport Services Authority merged with Telecom Disputes Appellate Tribunal;
- sole executive control is a violation of principles of natural justice because the

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government itself is one of the biggest litigants;

- bypassing of Parliamentary oversight by misusing Money Bill route, sets a bad precedent;

- no efforts to delineate the responsibilities and jurisdiction according to modern principles;

There's a need to roll back on the phenomena of 'Tribunalisation' but the same cannot be arbitrary and reactionary, that too on the sole basis of executionary discretion.

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4. Well-defined electoral laws and greater powers for the Election Commission of India are required as the existing laws and mechanisms are inadequate to deal with new challenges. Analyse.

सुपरिभाषित चुनावी कानूनों एवं भारत निर्वाचन आयोग के लिए अधिकाधिक शक्तियों की आवश्यकता हैं, क्योंकि मौजूदा कानून और तंत्र नई चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए अपर्याप्त हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Election Commission of India is one of the four pillars of the Constitution, and is the guardian of the Indian democracy.

Today, the Indian system of parliamentary democracy is plagued by the ills of corruption, casteism, communalism, and criminalisation. The existing legislative provisions in the Constitution or statutory provisions in the RPA 1950 & 1951 are increasingly proving inadequate to deal with the challenges of our times.

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Hence there's a need for well-defined electoral laws and greater powers for the ECI:

- powers under Schedule X;
- powers to countermand elections;
- electoral financing reforms, and not retrograde steps like electoral bonds;
- more resources allocated to ECI;
- some sort of contempt powers;
- the members of the ECI should be appointed on the recommendations of a broad-based committee and not just executive discretion;
- codification of a separate chapter in the Constitution wrt inner functioning of political parties;

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- revisiting the Lily Thomas Judgement, 2013;
- change 2 yrs to 1.5 yrs in Sec 8(4) 8(3) of RPA(1951);
- fast-track trials of legislators;
- asking candidates not just to give details of property, but sources of such property & scrutinising them for case of disproportionate assets

Progressive judgements like Gill Vs CEC (1977) can also help us in dealing with challenges of electoral politics.

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5. Privileges should be defined and delimited for the free and independent functioning of the legislatures. In this context, discuss whether there is a need to re-examine the balance between fundamental rights and parliamentary privileges in India.

विधानमंडलों के मुक्त और स्वतंत्र कामकाज के लिए विशेषाधिकार परिभाषित और सीमांकित होने चाहिए। इस संदर्भ में, चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या भारत में मूल अधिकारों और संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के मध्य संतुलन के पुन: परीक्षण की आवश्यकता है?

Privileges are special rights available to the menbes of legislatures to put forward the grievances of their people and enable them to perform their responsibilities to the best of their abilities.

The source of privileges ~~are~~ constitution, convention, rules of the House, etc. The origin of ~~the~~ privileges lies in the anxiety of British Parliament to protect its independence against the despotic monarchy.

The privileges are not in conflict with Article 14 of the Constitution because ~~these~~ they enhance the rights

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of citizens when the legislators give representation to the needs, concerns, grievances, etc of their people. In this way, privileges enhance and broaden our fundamental rights.

But following the recent case in Karnataka where a journalist was sentenced to one year imprisonment for writing about a legislator's alleged corrupt actions, there's a need to ensure that there are curbs on the extent to which privileges can be exercised. Instead of pursuing defamation proceedings, use of privileges for personal interests, ethically constituted breach of privilege and contempt of the House.

The courts must step in to balance Article 19(1)(a) with privileges here and there

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must be a broad based political consensus over what can be the limit to which privileges can be leveraged.

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6. The principle of accountability is an essential part of the rule of law. In this context, discuss the lacunae in government's approach and judiciary's response to the phenomenon of extrajudicial killings in India.

उत्तरदायित्व का सिद्धांत विधि के शासन का एक अनिवार्य अंग है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में न्यायेतर हत्या की घटनाओं के प्रति सरकार के दृष्टिकोण एवं न्यायपालिका की प्रतिक्रिया में विद्यमान कमियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The principle of accountability refers to the answerability of the public servant for the action taken and the possibility of enforceability, i.e. penalty if found that the action was illegal.

Extrajudicial killings in India constitute gross violation of fundamental rights and abrogation of principles of natural justice. Fabricated encounters, prison-deaths, killings ~~under~~ under AFSPA, UAPA, and other draconian legislations constitute ~~esca~~ extra-judicial killing, where the life of a person is taken away in a manner

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other than the procedure established by law.

The main lacunae in government's approach that leads to repeated instances of extra-judicial killings is the lack of accountability and vested interests. The government aims to amass power at the cost of freedoms enjoyed by the ~~judi~~ citizens, to ~~tadat~~ pursue its own interests. There's a need for police reforms, which can bring professionality in the working of law enforcement agencies and enforce and fix accountability for lapses and illegal acts committed.

The judiciary has always tried to uphold the rule of law and preserve the fundamental rights of the citizens. Since the ADM Jabalpur case where there was a gross violation of the principles of natural justice, the judiciary has progressively ruled in the

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favour of victims. But weakness in investigative mechanisms and weak prosecution makes conviction difficult, as seen in the Hashimpura massacre in 1987.

The apex court gave a landmark ruling in 2016 when it withdrew the complete immunity given under AFSPA, and ~~the~~ held that each death's cause must be investigated to determine if the fundamental rights were jeopardised.

But this is mere incrementalism. We have to move over the piecemeal approach, strengthen the NHRC that investigates into such complaints and bring police reforms to fix accountability.

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7. Explain the rationale behind enacting the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. Discuss how it can help in revitalizing consumer confidence in the real estate market. Also highlight the hurdles that remain in implementing it.

स्थावर संपदा (विनियमन एवं विकास) कानून, 2016 {रियल एस्टेट (रेगुलेशन एंड डेवलपमेंट) एक्ट, 2016} को अधिनियमित करने के पीछे निहित तर्क की व्याख्या कीजिए। चर्चा कीजिए कि यह स्थावर संपदा बाजार में उपभोक्ताओं के विश्वास को पुनः सशक्त करने में किस प्रकार सहायता कर सकता है। साथ ही इसके क्रियान्वयन में विद्यमान बाधाओं पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 is considered a transformational legislation that'd help stem the hazards of unplanned urbanization, enable securing the interests of home buyers and curb the parallel black money economy.

The main provisions of this legislation are:

- all real estate developers will have to get registered with state RERA bodies, affiliated to the Union RERA authority.

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- transparency & clarity in terms of contract and clear information about the built-up area and facilities offered;

- 70% of the booked amount would be kept in separate escrow account which cannot be used until delivery of homes;

- timelines in delivery of homes, otherwise pecuniary fines;

- adequate safeguards & quality monitoring of quality of the construction;

The legislation brings a balance to the so-far ~~real~~ practical situation where innocent & gullible buyers faced uncertainty and sometimes over cases of fraud.

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The hurdles that remain in implementing it are :

- lack of digital land records;
- ~~jurisdictional~~ administrative jungle in urban areas, eg. Delhi → MCD, DDA, Delhi govt, Union govt;
- failure of States to legislate ~~&~~ local RERA laws by 01-05-17;
- no respite for existing cases of citizens' despair → ~~As~~ such as in Greater Noida;
- no body to certify the new advts of real estate houses;

The Act must be implemented in letter & spirit, along with structural reforms such as digitisation of land records, to bring tangible results.

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8. Moving the subject of water from state list to concurrent list will solve the issues related to governance of water resources. Comment.

जल को राज्य सूची के विषय से समवर्ती सूची में स्थानांतरित करने से जल संसाधन के प्रशासन से संबंधित मुद्दों का समाधान हो जाएगा। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

'Water' has always been an emotive issue when it comes to inter-state relations. Given the fact that climate change is going to exacerbate water crises in the future, the interstate relations ~~to~~ are going to get hampered and deadlocked on the issue of sharing of interstate rivers.

A major reason for ~~this~~ these interstate water disputes lingering on for years is that the Interstate Water Disputes Act, 1956 being totally ineffective. The tribunals set up have been adhoc, the award has taken years to be declared and often the upper riparian state has

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refused to comply with the award given. Then the River Basins Act, 1956 has so far remained a deadwood.

Then, although the subject has been in the State List and Union cannot legally intervene, yet the Union should've ideally because it has even a Water Resources Ministry. But the Union govt has always adopted a minimalist approach when it comes to water disputes because of political vested interests.

Last but not the least, although the Water Disputes Act, 1956 prohibited any intervention by the courts but the apex court last year accepted a PIL filed by the Karnataka govt therefore

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further complicating the case.

To solve this issue, the recently introduced Interstate River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 is a welcome step. It establishes a permanent tribunal, and would announce a binding award within 4.5 years. In addition to that, ideally 'water' should be moved to the concurrent list.

This would enable the govt more legal space to act, but politico-bureaucratic will would be needed still to resolve the issues.

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9. Give an account of the areas of potential conflict in the relationship between the political executive and civil servants. Also discuss why a healthy working relationship between the two is critical for good governance.

राजनीतिक कार्यकारिणी और सिविल सेवकों के मध्य संबंधों में संभावित संघर्ष के क्षेत्रों का विवरण दीजिए। साथ ही चर्चा कीजिए कि सुशासन के लिए दोनों के बीच स्वस्थ कार्यशील संबंध क्यों महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

The civil services is an instrument of governance under the constitution. The political executive which gets the mandate from the people has the legal & ethical right to employ this instrument to ~~fitt~~ fulfill this mandate.

The problems arise when the civil services begin to view themselves as an institution in its own right and refuse to work ~~simly~~ simply as an ~~mando~~ instrument. Ideally, it's role is policy implementation but conflict arises when it begins to exercise policy formulation to the disregard of the political executive.

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Problems also arise when civil servants don't display impartiality & non-partisanship in their functioning and give politically motivated advice to the polical executive. The ~~two~~ 'anonymity' role of the civil servants can also be abused, when the political executive, innocent of the technicalities of administration, have to ~~take~~ pay the polical cost of mal administration. eg. Mundhra scam (1958)

A healthy working relationship between the two is critical for good governance because it enables the best possible utilization of the capabilities and competencies of the two. The political executive understands the problems of the citizens and enjoys public trust, and can

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implemented even tough-to-digest reforms if they're beneficial in the long run.

The civil servants, though often conservative & ~~ex~~ insensitive to grand realities, can help suggest the best reforms in administration to ameliorate people's sufferings.

The civil services, as an instrument must accept the primacy of the political executive, which gets the people's mandate to exercise this instrument of governance.

—— x ——

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10. Despite their location in the non-political domain of civil society, NGOs have ended up playing a key, if indirect, role in India's politics. Comment.
सिविल सोसाइटी के गैर-राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में स्थिति होने के बावजूद भी गैर-सरकारी संगठन (NGOs) भारत की राजनीति में भले ही अप्रत्यक्ष, लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण, भूमिका निभा रहे हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

NGOs are groups of people united to pursue a common cause by sensitising the government and the citizenry via public platforms and speech and advocacy.

- In the political domain, NGOs like ADR, PUCL, Common Cause, etc. have enabled new norms of transparency in working of parties & electoral funding, and enhancement of civil liberties, eg. Lily Thomas case (2013), additional affidavit in candidates' nomination, etc

- In the socio-economic domain, NGOs have led advocacy campaigns for Right to

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Information, Right to Education, Right to Food, etc. legislations have been subsequently enacted on these subjects;

· In the environment domain, NGOs have led campaigns against developmental projects which disrupt livelihoods, or nuclear-thermal power plants being set up without proper EIA and SIA, or in the grant of traditional forest rights to tribals;

· NGOs have also advocated disarmament, preservation of media freedom, leading campaigns against archaic social traditions like khaps or child marriages, etc

Challenges in working of NGOs

· they often working in silos, and hence allegations of money-laundering & indulging in anti-state activities;

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· less than 10% file annual income tax returns under FCRA rules;

· increasingly resorting to protection under FEMA, when ideally FCRA is the broad umbrella;

The 2nd ARC credited the NGOs for building 'social capital'. There's a need to balance the need to pursue advocacy of public causes ~~free~~ with independence, at the same time maintaining concerns about security & integrity of India.

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11. Magnitude of India's urbanisation is not unusual but the pattern is. In this context, examine the issues in the governance of cities in India. Also suggest the reforms required to make Indian cities dynamos of competitive sub-federalism.

भारत के शहरीकरण का विस्तार असामान्य नहीं है लेकिन पैटर्न असामान्य है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरों के प्रशासन से संबंधित मुद्दों का परीक्षण कीजिए। साथ ही भारतीय शहरों को प्रतिस्पर्धी उप-संघवाद के डायनेमो बनाने के लिए आवश्यक सुधारों हेतु सुझाव दीजिए।

According to Census 2011, 31% of Indian ~~cities~~ population lives in urban centres and by 2031, it's going to exceed 50%.

However, the urbanisation witnessed in India isn't planned and hence we are facing a plethora of governance issues in the governance of cities.

- unmitigated and rampant migration;
- slums, ghettos, suburbisation at unplanned-rapid scale;
- pressure on water & electricity utilities;
- pollution of natural resources;

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- increasing crime, esp against women;
- administrative jungle, eg. Delhi → DDA, MCD, Delhi govt & Union govt;
- ineffective governance due to inadequate capacity-building of functionaries;

However, it isn't too late and structural reforms can go a long way in improving the governance.

- careful delineation of responsibilities according to Schedule XI A;
- adequate devolution of funds, functions, functionaries, and framework;
- capacity building of functionaries;
- reform real estate, taxation laws;

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- politico-bureaucratic will to carry out structural reforms

Cities are the engines of growth, contributing to nearly two-thirds of GDP. The above reforms are required to make these cities dynamos of competitive sub-federalism.

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12. Social boycott should be treated as a criminal offence, rather than being considered as just another form of social evil plaguing the Indian society. Examine.

सामाजिक बहिष्कार को वस्तुतः भारतीय समाज को अभिशप्त करने वाली सामाजिक बुराई का केवल एक अन्य रूप मानने के बजाय, एक आपराधिक कृत्य माना जाना चाहिए। परीक्षण कीजिए।

Social boycott is an adverse form of social behavior that's used to perpetrate psychological and social to violence on individuals.

It's usually used as a weapon against those elements in the society that intentionally or unintentionally violate the established norms of the society, such as intercaste marriages, changing generations old traditional profession, adopting new forms of cultural traditions or paraphernelia.

In most cases, it's perpetrated

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against the marginalised sections, such as Dalits, minorities, women, etc. The psychological harm done is long-lasting and can take dangerous forms such as even suicide. It can cause despair and depression and prevents social mobility, hence the society cannot evolve and hence degenerates.

However, not all forms of social boycott are undesirable. It's absolutely right to socially boycott the bootleggers, those who are daily drunkards, those who engage in domestic abuse, those who don't vote or don't pay taxes and don't perform fundamental duties, such as keeping our environs clean.

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Use of social boycott ~~to~~ as a perverse tool to penalise ethical and legal behavior has to be criminalised, such as the diktats of khaps or fatwas of sharia courts that violate any of the fundamental rights. In this regard, Maharashtra has recently introduced a Bill, criminalising social boycott, in 2016.

Unethical social boycott for vested interests is a perverse evil that must be nipped in the bud, using legislative & statutory provisions.

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13. Human Trafficking in India has emerged as a serious issue, which calls for understanding the complexity of the problem and devising an effective strategy to combat it. Discuss.

भारत में मानव दुर्व्यापार एक गंभीर समस्या के रूप में उभरा है, जो समस्या की जटिलता समझने एवं इससे मुकाबला करने के लिए एक प्रभावी रणनीति तैयार करने का आह्वान करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Human trafficking is a perverse form of social violence that violates the fundamental rights of the victim and in process, violates a number of legal diktats.

Human trafficking is a complex and rampant issue in the whole of South Asia, particularly at the India - Nepal and India - Myanmar bordes. It takes place due to need for bonded labour & sex trade. Innocent and gullible individuals are lured by benefits and promised jobs, only to be pushed into the dark world.

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However, it's not just a social problem which creates demand for human trafficking. It points to ineffectiveness & corruption in the law enforcement machinery in carrying out its duties.

The comprehensive strategy to combat it comprises the following steps:

- stringent checking at borders;
- local law enforcement agencies taking note of domestic helps and prostitutes in the areas;
- punishing the ~~convicts~~ criminals via fast-track trials;
- rehabilitation of victims;
- formalisation of domestic helps and prostitutes

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by bringing them under labour laws;

· inter country & interstate coordination to bust trafficking cartels;

The recently introduced Human Trafficking Bill, 2016 is a step in the right direction. To effectively implement it, interagency coordination & cooperation shall be the key.

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14. A weak teacher education system is at the core of India's problems in school education. Evaluate. In this context, also enumerate the recommendations of the High-Powered Commission on Teacher Education constituted by the Supreme Court of India.

कमजोर शिक्षक शिक्षा प्रणाली स्कूली शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में भारत की समस्याओं के मूल में है। मूल्यांकन कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा गठित शिक्षक शिक्षा पर उच्च-स्तरीय आयोग की अनुशंसाओं को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

The Indian education system suffers from a number of challenges that have reduced the quality of outcomes and hence India is finding it hard to realise its demographic dividend.

One of the challenges is the weak teacher education, which manifests in the form of:

- only 79% teaches in rural areas possess the relevant educational qualifications, as per ASER 2014 report by Pratham foundation;

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- even in the case of those who possess relevant qualifications, there are qualitative deficits;
- teacher absenteeism;
- teachers have been overburdened with administrative responsibilities under the CCE system, which affects teaching outcomes;
- casualisation → guest teachers → lack of job security affects efforts;
- delays & leakages in salaries kill the motivation to teach better;

In this context, a HPC on Teacher Education constituted by the apex court gave the following recommendations:

- uniform and high quality syllabus to be formulated, with ample scope for incorporating local designs;

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- only those possessing relevant qualifications should be allowed under RTE (2009);
- periodic tests to weed out the non-performers,
- skill training missions to enable the teachers to contribute towards the better quality and outcomes

In the light of the above recommendations, the recent amendment to the RTE giving a 2 year-window to unqualified teaches is one step forward, two steps backward. There's a need to penalise non-compliance & shift focus from outlays to learning outcomes.

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15. It has been argued that the recent order of the Supreme Court to prevent the misuse of Section 498A institutionalises the prejudices and rehabilitates the myths, which the women's movement in India has battled over decades. Discuss.

यह तर्क दिया जा रहा है कि धारा 498A के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट का हालिया आदेश वस्तुतः उन पूर्वाग्रहों को संस्थागत एवं उन मिथकों को पुनर्स्थापित करता है, जिनसे भारत में महिला आंदोलन ने कई दशकों तक संघर्ष किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

From 2012 to 2014, nearly 48000 dowry-related deaths took place in India and FIRs were filed in 93.1% cases under Section 498A of IPC. However the low conviction rate of barely 14% made the apex court issue the recent order to prevent misuse of Sec 498A, originally meant to prevent cruelty towards women.

Provisions in the new order:

- formation of district welfare committees which would examine all complaints under Sec 498A on whose recommendations police would use to approach the case;
- out of station accused will not be asked

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to be present for hearings;

- direct arrest only if tangible observation of physical violence or death;
- penalty if false cases discovered;

The main issue involved here is the perception of the alleged misuse of Sec 498A among the patriarchal society. But Arbitrary arrests by the police can be used for extortion and end the possibility of any reconciliation. Then there's a social stigma attached to arrest, particularly for the unmarried women members of the accused's family.

But there's a need to understand that the low conviction rate is due to the excruciatingly slow moving judicial process, which compels women to eventually

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withdraw the cases. The fact that FIRs are filed in 93.1% cases even when the police isn't empathetic and cooperative enough, points to the miniscule number of fake cases among the total numbers.

The 2014 judgement which gave a 9-check point list was progressive enough. The 2017 judgement now effectively dilutes Sec 498A, and the protection provided to millions of genuine victims now stands jeopardised.

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16. As strategic interests between India and US continue to converge, defence has emerged as a major area of cooperation between the two. Discuss the significance and possible implications of this development.

जैसा कि भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के बीच रणनीतिक हितों का एकीकरण जारी है, रक्षा दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोग के एक प्रमुख क्षेत्र के रूप में उभरा है। इस विकास के महत्व और संभावित निहितार्थों की चर्चा कीजिए।

In terms of geopolitics, USA is a waning superpower, trying to hold on ~~it~~ to its pre-eminent position in the world order, while India is a rising world power, trying to grow faster and take care of its socio-economic and geo-strategic challenges.

It's a unique opportunity that these two powers, which were at the different ends of spectrum when it came to world politics, are finding a broad-based convergence on a host of issues. The China-factor, stabilisation of Afghanistan and fighting extremist terror are the

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foundation of this new relationship.

The 123 Nuclear Deal and signing of the Strategic Partnership in 2010 have taken the relationship to new heights. In 2016, India signed LEMOA with the USA, giving permission to each other's navies to use domestic berthing facilities during humanitarian relief and disaster rescue.

The Malabar Naval Exercise, the joint army & air force exercises, sale of 20 - ~~#~~ raptor UAVs, and possible sale of ~~5th~~ 4th gen F-16s of Lockheed Martin have set the course for future defence cooperation.

This relationship can jointly check the rise of an assertive & belligerent China, uphold freedom of navigation of the

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seas, fight state proxies of terror & destroy their safe havens and stabilise Afghanistan and Central Asia. We can together emerge as a net security provider across Asia-Pacific, foiling China's String of Pearls strategy.

However, our own domestic foreign policy flip flops and Trump's reactionary policy moves can foil our plans. India, however, no doubt is emerging as a great swing state in the global governance structure.

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17. India's contribution to peacekeeping missions of the United Nations has remained steadfast despite changes in the nature, form and variety of UN peace keeping missions. Examine.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति स्थापना अभियानों (UN peace keeping missions) की प्रकृति, ढाँचे और आयामों में परिवर्तन के बावजूद संयुक्त राष्ट्र के शांति स्थापना अभियानों में भारत का योगदान निरंतर बना हुआ है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

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18. India's partnership with Africa is an amalgam of African development priorities as well as India's development objectives. Discuss. Also highlight the initiatives taken by India in this context.

अफ्रीका के साथ भारत की साझेदारी अफ्रीका के विकास की प्राथमिकताओं के साथ-साथ भारत के विकास लक्ष्यों का सम्मिश्रण है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही भारत द्वारा इस संदर्भ में की गई पहलों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

Africa is an important ~~part~~ piece of the great jigsaw puzzle in our quest for a bigger role in world politics by successfully tackling our socio-economic & geo-strategic challenges.

India had trade worth $65 bn with Africa in 2014, and a net investment of $35 bn. Indian MNCs have acquired valuable stakes in domestic industries of countries like Zimbabwe, Kenya and South Africa. Support of the 54 member states from Africa is crucial in the democratisation of UNO & the success of Paris Climate agreement.

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Africa is crucial for oil & gas, nuclear, and other strategic resources like zinc, iron, copper and bauxite. There's a vast untapped potential of polymetallic nodules along the African littoral states in the Indian Ocean. Africa can provide a big boost to Make in India, Digital India and Skill India.

At the same time, Africa stands to benefit from the Indian capacity-building efforts and investments & transfer of technology. Some initiatives taken by India are:

- $10 bn line of credit promised;
- EXIM bank → $8 bn approx loan;
- Indian Navy providing security to littoral states against pirates & disaster relief;
- e-Pan Africa network → tele-medicine,

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tele-education;

- Africa Asia Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) → for capacity building efforts;
- generating local employment through exploitation of domestic potential of economy;

India must walk the talk on investments & transfer of technology. The envisioned Asia-Africa Growth Corridor is going to be the next big step in our relationship.

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19. Comment on the role of International Court of Justice in upholding the values of international law. In this context, also highlight the association of India with the ICJ over the years.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विधि के मूल्यों को बनाए रखने में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय की भूमिका पर टिप्पणी कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, विगत वर्षों में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय के साथ भारत के संबंध को भी प्रकाशित कीजिये।

The International Court of Justice is one of the most important institutions under the United Nations, having its HQs at the Hague, Netherlands.

It pronounces rulings and advisory judgements over legal issues submitted to it by member states to resolve mutual disputes according to principles of natural justice and international law. Though the awards aren't binding on the member states, they carry huge moral weight. It's a 15-member body.

India has been associated with

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the ICJ in a number of ~~years~~. ways. Many Indians have served with distinction on the ICJ Bench. India has amicably resolved border demarcation issues, both territorial & marine, with its neighbours under the auspices of the ICJ.

India ~~is~~ has also upheld the freedom of navigation of seas, according to the UNCLOS principle of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. It actively promotes peaceful resolution of conflicts on the basis of advisory jurisdiction of the ICJ.

In the immediate scenario, both India and Pakistan approached the ICJ in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case where

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the ICJ asked Pakistan to put on hold Jadhav's death sentence until its final decision and grant India consular access to him under the Vienna Convention, 1963.

The ICJ shall continue to be of great importance in the multipolar world order, in which India is also emerging as a powerful pole.

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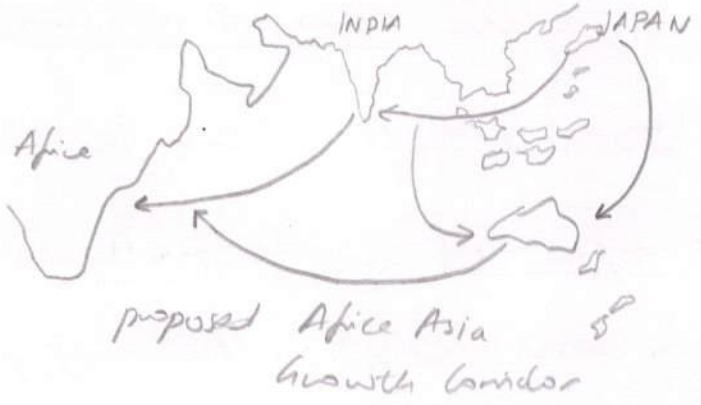
20. In view of the focus on trans-regional economic corridors and changing regional geo-politics and geo-economics, critically discuss the idea of an Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor.

पार-क्षेत्रीय आर्थिक गलियारों एवं बदलती क्षेत्रीय भू-राजनीति और भू-अर्थनीति को ध्यान में रखते हुए, भारत-प्रशांत आर्थिक गलियारे के विचार पर आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।



The 21st century is witnessing the development of trans-regional economic corridors, encompassing both geo-politics and geo-economics.

The Chinese Belt and Road Initiative is a prime example of this ~~tat~~ strategy. It aims to link more than 4.4 billion people across 65 countries in Asia, Europe and Africa. While its main purpose is to

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ensure security of supply of raw materials to the rising industrial giant, but also to create the strategic space of its neighbors with whom it has conflicts like India, Vietnam and Japan.

With the TPP in limbo, and failed negotiations over TTIP, China is increasingly aiming to establish its economic and military hegemony over Asia-Pacific and replacing USA as the next superpower.

In this context, there's an idea of an Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor taking shape that links the economies of Asia, Oceania and Africa, based on principles of mutual equality and respect for territorial sovereignty and strategic concerns. The idea is not to score geo-strategic brownie points

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in the garb of connectivity plans, but to share the prosperity and benefits of trade in goods, services, investments, etc.

At a time when China is pursuing its BRI in an assertive and belligerent manner, there's a need for like minded partners like India, Japan, South Korea & Australia to write and counter such nefarious Chinese designs.

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	28393
Center	Old Rajendra Nagar	Date	09/10/17

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
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14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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All the questions are compulsory and carry 12.5 marks each.

1. Enumerate the discretionary powers of the Governor mentioned in the Indian Constitution. Why is it said that the post of governor has become highly politicised?

भारतीय संविधान में निर्दिष्ट राज्यपाल की विवेकाधीन शक्तियों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। ऐसा क्यों कहा जाता है कि राज्यपाल का पद अत्यधिक राजनीतिक बन गया है ?

The office of the Governor is a constitutional post, serving as the Head of the state. The constitution provides a vast reserve of discretionary power to him/her in this regard.

- in the case of a hung legislative assembly after the elections, calling upon a member to form a government;
- reserving bills for the President under Article 200;
- asking the Council of Ministers to reconsider their advice → Article 163;

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- dismissal of a Minister, even the Chief Minister, if the situation demands so, Article 164

- seeking information from the Council of Ministers, Article 167;

- administration of a Union Territory if given that responsibility;

- special responsibilities in states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Sikkim, etc under Article 371;

- making provisions for a linguistic minority in the state;

- sending Governor's report on a fortnightly basis to the Union govt that forms the basis of President's Rule;

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Today, the post of governor has become highly politicized because:

- appointment of burnt-out politicians that are openly partisan and de-stabilise the state govt at the behest of Union govt;
- lack of consultation with state govt while appointing governor;

Ideally the post should be abolished, and the responsibilities should be divided among the President, CJI of state HC, etc. But the constitutional amendment wouldn't get the political consensus. Hence the ~~post~~ Governor should be appointed on the basis of recommendations of the Sarkaria and the Punchhi commission.

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2. CAG is instrumental in securing accountability of the executive to the Parliament in the sphere of financial administration. Elaborate. Enumerate the provisions made in the Constitution to ensure the independence of the CAG.

CAG वित्तीय प्रशासन के क्षेत्र में संसद के प्रति कार्यपालिका की जवाबदेही तय करने में सहायक है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। CAG की स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करने हेतु संविधान में किए गए प्रावधानों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

According to BR Ambedkar, the CAG was the conscience-keeper of the Constitution. It's a very important constitutional office.

Its aim is to improve the quality of financial administrative in governance, and not to pick out faults. It should play the role of a watchdog against financial impropriety and corruption. Whenever there's a case of wrong or abuse of the rule of law, it's not just its right but its duty to bring it to light.

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It prepares audit reports and sends them to the Parliament where they are laid down before the MPs. The CAG acts as the friend, philosopher and guide of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament. It helps the PAC in scrutinising govt expenditure and securing accountability and responsibility.

The CAG undertakes not just compliance audit or performance audit, it examines the quality of financial decisions made by the executive - the Propriety audit - which can expose financial wrong doings.

To secure the independence of the CAG:

- expenses are charged expenditure;
- difficult process of removal;

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· security of tenure → 6 yrs or max age of 65 yrs, whichever is earlier;

~~partior~~ · appointed by the President under his Hand and Seal;

· action taken report on CAG's audit report which has to be compulsorily tabled in the Parliament.

Moving forward, the appointment of the CAG should be on the recommendation of a broad based committee instead of current trend of executive discretion.

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3. What are the different institutional arrangements in India to promote cooperation between the Centre and States? Critically analyse the role of Inter-State Council to enhance cooperative federalism in India.

केंद्र और राज्यों के मध्य सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए भारत में विभिन्न संस्थागत व्यवस्थाएं क्या हैं? भारत में सहकारी संघवाद को बढ़ावा देने में अंतरराज्यीय परिषद की भूमिका का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Indian federalism is unique in its own way, showing trends of cooperative, competitive and bargaining federalism. At the same time, there are a number of non-federal features present vertically & horizontally.

To cement Indian federalism and strengthen, the different institutional arrangements are:

· Inter-state Council → consisting of PM, Cabined Ministers, the CMs of all states and the administrators of UTs;

· the National Integration Council;

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· the newly constituted GST council;

· the regional councils set up under the SR Act, 1956;

· the NITI Aayog, and the Planning Commission and NDC earlier;

· the All India Services and the Rajya Sabha itself;

The Inter State Council was conceived by India's first PM JL Nehru to enhance cooperative federalism in India. However it has hardly served the purpose and has practically defunct. today. However, it offers a lot of promise in areas of water disputes, counter-terrorism, fiscal consolidation, agriculture, etc.

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To enable the ISC to play its intended role, it must be given a clear mandate & plan of action, and the authority to carry out that mandate. Secondly, functions performed by parallel bodies like the NITI Aayog could be subsumed under the Inter State Council.

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4. In view of the idea of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, discuss the advantages that its implementation would lead to and the concerns that it raises.

लोकसभा और राज्य विधानसभाओं का चुनाव साथ-साथ कराने के विचार के आलोक में, इसके कार्यान्वयन से होने वाले लाभों और इससे उत्पन्न होने वाली चिंताओं पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently, there's been an idea doing the rounds of the prospect of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies.

The proposed advantages:

- economies of scale → would reduce the net expenditure involved in conducting elections;
- civil services and paramilitary forces are routinely disturbed due to different elections;
- end to frequent invocation of the Model Code of Conduct;

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· the party workers would be freed and could concentrate on social work;

· it's not a new experiment for us, the first four General Elections till 1967 coincided with elections to State legislatures;

However, the concerns raised are:

· it would require a Constitutional amendment to curtail/extend the term of state legislatures;

· massive logistical challenge & huge expenditures for first such experiment;

· danger of national narrative drowning the local narratives;

· it'd make coalitions an imposition and a necessity;

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The Indian electorate is showing incremental maturity, as seen in Delhi in 2014-15 when the people chose different parties at national and state levels. This maturity should be nurtured to strengthen federalism and constitutionalism, and hence the time isn't ripe for simultaneous elections.

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5. While the Competition Commission of India and sector-specific regulators are required to complement each other, overlapping jurisdiction has resulted in regulatory parallelism amongst them. Comment.
जहां भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग और क्षेत्र-विशिष्ट नियामकों को एक-दूसरे का पूरक बनने की आवश्यकता है, वहीं परस्पर अतिव्यापी अधिकार क्षेत्र का परिणाम उनके बीच नियामकीय समानांतरता के रूप में सामने आया है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The CCI and other sector-specific regulators like Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Airports Authority of India etc were set up due to rising technicalities in administration and to reduce the burden of the ordinary law courts who lacked the expertise to adjudicate in these matters.

However, while it was believed that these regulators would complement each other, overlapping jurisdiction has resulted in regulatory parallelism among them. For example, the entry of

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Reliance Jio in Telecom market has triggered price wars, and both TRAI and CCI have intervened leading to adjucatory paralysis.

Lack of full authority of powers, as available to the ordinary courts, makes the companies delay complying with the orders of these regulators. Therefore there's need to enhance their powers to accomplish compliance.

Lack of adequate resources & availability of sector-specific experts have also been a drawback. Most such bodies are headed by career bureaucrats who are conservative and status-quoists in nature.

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Irrational setting up of such tribunals has resulted in a phenomena of 'Tribunalisation' with such bodies today coming up for even minor administrative & governance issues.

There's a need to economise and bring efficiency in the working of these regulators, giving them a clear field of adjudication, as outlined in the amendment to Finance Bill 2017, however their control cannot be left to executive discretion either.

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6. Criticism about the judiciary should be welcomed, so long as criticisms do not hamper the "administration of justice". In this context discuss whether the power of contempt of court given to the higher judiciary limits the freedom granted by Article 19(1)(a) and whether these two can be reconciled.

जब तक आलोचनाएं "न्याय के प्रशासन" में बाधा न डालें, न्यायपालिका के संबंध में आलोचनाओं का स्वागत किया जाना चाहिए। इस संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या उच्चतर न्यायपालिका को दी गई न्यायालय की अवमानना की शक्ति अनुच्छेद 19 (1) (a) द्वारा प्रदत्त स्वतंत्रता को सीमित करती है और क्या इन दोनों में सामंजस्य हो सकता है।

The judiciary is one of the three pillars of the state, given the responsibility to secure the rights of citizens and check the majoritarianism of the Executive. To enable it to play this role effectively, it's been given contempt powers.

The contempt of court according to the CC Act, 1971 can be civil or criminal. While civil contempt refers to wilful disobedience of the orders of the court, criminal contempt refers to scandalising the dignity of the court or obstructing the course of justice.

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The power to penalise criminal contempt often comes in conflict with Article 19(1)(a) in Part III of the Constitution, which guarantees the Freedom of Speech and Expression. It's often observed that judges are very insecure about the critiques of their judgements ~~or~~ and hence mechanically apply this law. Many a time, innocent and genuine people have been punished.

In the Mulgaonkar case, the apex court took a liberal stand and clarified that judgements should be allowed to stand critical scrutiny and judges should make economical use of contempt powers. This pronouncement does try to reconcile the two.

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However, it's easier said than done because the judiciary is often conservative, as seen in the recent judgement to decline making defamation just a civil offence. Hence, although theoretically the two can be reconciled, but practically there will always be chances of judicial tyranny.

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7. Despite being a welcome step, Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 fails to resolve the issue of overlapping of jurisdiction between the legislature and judiciary. Analyse.

स्वागत योग्य कदम होने के बावजूद, अंतरराज्यीय जल विवाद (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017 विधायिका और न्यायपालिका के बीच क्षेत्राधिकार के परस्पर अतिव्यापन का मुद्दा सुलझाने में विफल रहा है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Given the delay in announcement of awards by ~~ad~~ adhoc tribunals and the judiciary intervening in these awards, the Union govt has proposed the Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

Features of the new bill:

- a permanent tribunal of 5 yrs years tenure having a Chairman & 2 VC and five other members;
- the award would be declared in 4.5 years;
- no need for notification of the award announced;

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- a dispute resolution committee under the tribunal to first try and sort out the issue through negotiations;
- assessors & technical experts to help the tribunal in adjudication;
- collection of data from all the river basins in the country;

The concerns raised:

- whether judicial intervention could be still avoided;
- water, being a state list subject, whether a union-set up tribunal has adjudicatory powers;
- the issue of compliance by the lose state;

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The Union govt has traditionally followed a minimalistic, lethargic, and uninterested approach in water disputes. Due to climate change, such disputes are going to exacerbate in future and the Union must adopt a pro-active approach. Additionally, water can be made a ~~state~~ concurrent list subject.

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8. Critically discuss the major reforms introduced in the area of electoral funding in Union Budget 2017. Do you think that state funding of elections is a viable idea to check misuse of money power in politics?

2017 के केंद्रीय बजट में चुनावी वित्तपोषण को लेकर प्रस्तुत किए गए प्रमुख सुधारों पर आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए। क्या आप मानते हैं कि राजनीति में धनबल का दुरुपयोग रोकने के लिए चुनावों का राज्य द्वारा वित्त पोषण एक व्यावहारिक विचार है?

The Finance Bill 2017 introduces major reforms in the area of electoral funding in India.

- the cap of 7.5% on companies profits under section 182 of Companies Act has been abolished;
- cash donations on individual basis limited to Rs 2000 per head;
- electoral bonds to be issued to make electronic payments to political parties;

The problem in the ~~elect~~ electoral funding in India has always

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been use of black money that incentivises corruption and criminalisation of politics, and opaque funding that promotes crony capitalism.

The reforms introduced are at best incremental and only serve to replace black money with white, and at the same time transparency has reduced, incentivising crony capitalism and pork-barreling.

State funding of election isn't a viable idea because:

- lack of effective norms wrt taxation and real estate;
- absence of transparency and hence no clarity on actual ~~ex~~ election expenditure of political parties;

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· socio-economic realities of India

Ideally, the partial state funding should continue in the form of free air time on state media and electoral lists for parties. Corporate funding should be channeled via electoral trusts. We need reforms for transparency in electoral funding, which the recently introduced reforms squarely fail to do.

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9. Discuss the significance of the concept of Office of Profit as enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Why has it been embroiled in controversies for a long time? Analyse the role played by judiciary in this regard.

भारतीय संविधान में यथा प्रतिष्ठापित लाभ के पद की अवधारणा के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। लंबे समय तक यह विवादों में क्यों उलझा रहा? इस संबंध में न्यायपालिका द्वारा निभायी गई भूमिका का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The concept of office of Profit as enshrined in the Indian Constitution is aimed at avoiding / preventing not just financial impropriety but adverse administrative influences also. The aim is to prevent not just material depravity, but upholding ethical norms of transparency and probity.

The ~~It~~ concept wasn't present in letter in the original constitution, but was present in the spirit. The statutory provision, office of Profit Act (1959) subsequently applies to members of legislatures.

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The concept has embroiled in controversies for a long time because:

- absence of clear definition, esp wrt to administrative propriety;
- Council of Ministers coming from the Legislature;
- crony capitalism and pork-barreling emerging quite dramatically after post-1991 reforms;
- misuse of law enforment agencies like CBI;
- lack of a credible & strict legislation to act in this context;

The judiciary has played a very important role in this regard.

- conceived the notion of 'administrative

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propriety in context of just financial propriety;

- rejecting the 2007 legislation that was full of vested interests;
- countering majoritarianism of government to pull acts of non-transparency & financial impropriety;

In 2012, the apex court also rightly held in the favour of Pranab Mukherjee on the petition filed by PA Sangma. There's a need for broad based consensus, backed by legislation and convention, to end the controversies on this issue.

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10. The provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution devolve some essential powers to the lower levels in order to cater to the needs of the tribal community. Discuss, while examining the modern day challenges faced by the institutions set up under the Sixth Schedule.

संविधान की छठी अनुसूची के प्रावधान, जनजातीय समुदाय की आवश्यकताओं को पूर्ण करने के लिए निचले स्तर को कुछ आवश्यक शक्तियां हस्तांतरित करती हैं। छठी अनुसूची के अंतर्गत स्थापित संस्थाओं के समक्ष वर्तमान चुनौतियों का परीक्षण करते हुए चर्चा कीजिए।

The Schedule VI of the Constitution deals with the administration of scheduled areas in the states of Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram.

There's a functional list of items codified in the Constitution over which power has been devolved to Autonomous District Councils, such as:

- management of local forest produce;
- health & education facilities;
- organisation of village markets;
- preventing land alienation;

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- management of land & water resources;
- royalty from mining by State;

However, the powers haven't been exercised adequately and modern day challenges that are faced today are:

- lack of sustainable livelihoods;
- climate change induced freak disasters;
- money & muscle power in elections;
- pollution;
- commercialisation of community resources leading to violent conflicts;

There's a need to urgently act against these challenges to implement the Schedule VI in both letter & spirit.

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- adequate devolution of funds, functions, functionaries & framework;
- capacity building of functionaries;
- urban-rural continuum must be maintained in planning;
- checking environmental degradation;
- checking corruption in elections and administration.

Above all, we need politico-bureaucratic will to ensure efficient working of Schedule VI.

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11. Special rights are not privileges but they are granted to make it possible for minorities to preserve their identity, culture and traditions. Elaborate in the context of India with examples.

विशिष्ट अधिकार विशेषाधिकार नहीं हैं, बल्कि अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए अपनी पहचान, संस्कृति और परंपराओं का संरक्षण करना संभव बनाने के लिए इन्हें प्रदान किया गया है। उदाहरण सहित भारत के संदर्भ में सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Minorities are those communities who follow culture and traditions different from those of the majority communities around them. India has linguistic, caste, religious etc minorities and have been granted special rights under the Constitution.

· Articles 29 and 30 → the freedom to preserve their culture and also to establish minority educational institutions; this enables them to preserve their identity, culture & traditions while at the same time a healthy mix of evolution of a hybrid culture;

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· the Aligarh Muslim University, the St Stephens College, etc are minority institutions;

· Article 25-28 → provide freedom of religion, freedom to establish religious institutions, acquire immovable property, administer it independently and freedom from religious instructions, eg. the Lotus Temple of the Bahais in New Delhi;

· Articles 14-15-16 → prevents discrimination against minorities in any form, with respect to public and private services, and also makes provisions for positive discrimination and affirmative action, eg. quotas in IITs, NITs, IIMs, etc.

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These rights are not privileges because they help the minorities ~~exercise~~ lead their ~~tif~~ lives according to principles of natural justice. The minorities are often ostracised and discriminated. Hence these rights enable their socio-economic development and we can make the best use of our talent pool.

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12. While it has been argued that the judiciary should be brought under RTI, a balance also needs to be maintained between independence of the judiciary and the right of people to know. In this context, discuss the pros and cons of bringing the judiciary under the ambit of RTI.

एक ओर यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि न्यायपालिका को RTI के अंतर्गत लाया जाना चाहिए, वहीं न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता और लोगों के सूचना के अधिकार के मध्य संतुलन बनाए रखना भी आवश्यक है। इस संदर्भ में, न्यायपालिका को RTI के दायरे में लाने के पक्ष और विपक्ष पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The judiciary is an important pillar of the Indian State and has pronounced far-reaching judgements to bring transparency in the activities of the Legislature and the Executive. The recently pronounced verdict in the KS Puttuswamy case is a prime example of this.

However, the judiciary has yet been sold to the idea of practising RTI when it comes to itself. While it indulges in judicial activism

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to enhance the canvas of citizens' rights, it's particularly adverse to the Right to Information. This fear of transparency has even defeated the actual meaning and objective of the collegium process, and we see increasingly dubious appointments to the Bench.

The advantages of bringing the judiciary under the ambit of RTI would be:

- walking the talk and hence inspiring the legislature & executive to do the same,
- bridging the growing trust deficit between the citizens & the judiciary;
- would enable constructive criticism which'd help in improving the judicial administration.

However, there could be disadvantages like:

- contempt of court,
- independence of judiciary may be compromised,
- serious consequences for separation of powers;

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There needs to be a balance in the application of RTI to the judiciary. Some degree of transparency in the collegium process and information about the assets and source of the members of the Bench would be the way to go in the beginning.

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13. Differentiate between pressure groups and political parties. It is often said that pressure groups are primarily a consequence of inadequacies of the political parties in India. Discuss the above statement in the context of rising environmental protection groups.

दबाव समूहों और राजनीतिक दलों के मध्य अंतर कीजिए। प्राय: यह कहा जाता है कि दबाव समूह मुख्य रूप से भारत में राजनीतिक दलों की अयोग्यता का परिणाम हैं। बढ़ते पर्यावरण संरक्षण समूहों के संदर्भ में उपर्युक्त कथन पर चर्चा कीजिए।

While pressure groups are associations of people united to pursue a common cause by advocacy and making representations to the government and bureaucracy, a political party is one which is registered by the ECI under the provisions of RPA, 1950.

The existence of multitudes of diversity present in our nation results often in inadequate representation given to certain socio-economic and political interests ~~par~~ across the political spectrum. This inadequacy is further exacerbated by

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the fact that we follow parliamentary democracy based on the first-past-the-post system and not a list-system of seats.

Then there are certain organisations which are not capable of participating in the usual political & electoral process because of their schedules. Hence they form pressure groups to address their concerns & demands to the politico-bureaucratic executive.

In India, there are farmer-based, industry-based (eg. CII, ASSOCHAM), labour-based (eg. Bhartiya Majdoor Sangh), environment based (eg. NBA), etc pressure groups. Even the Bar Council of India acts as a pressure group.

Environment ~~has~~ is yet to find an important place in the <u>election manifestos</u> of political parties while <u>public awareness</u>

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is also inadequate in this regard. Therefore there's a need to sensitise the political executive & the citizenry, given the adverse impacts of climate change in the long run, and the short term adverse consequences of pollution, for example crackers on Diwali affect asthma patients.

Environmental consciousness is going to rise in the future and the pressure groups in this context ~~are~~ are currently leading a silent revolution.

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14. Give an account of the factors responsible for the limited success of Lok Adalats. What measures are required to ensure that Lok Adalats function as an effective dispute redressal mechanism?

लोक अदालतों की सीमित सफलता के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों का विवरण प्रदान कीजिए। लोक अदालतों द्वारा प्रभावी विवाद निवारण तंत्र के रूप में कार्य करने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जाने आवश्यक हैं?

Lok Adalats are a unique example of alternate dispute resolution mechanisms propounded by the apex courts to deal with ~~non~~ cognizable and ~~non~~ compoundable civil and criminal cases.

In 1987, the lok Adalats' award was given the decree of a civil court to improve the perception and acceptance. However, the experiment has enjoyed only limited success so far, because:

- inadequate resources & functionaries allocated for the purpose;
- increasingly cases which are beyond

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the mandate of Lok Adalats are being filed,

- jurisdictional conflicts with other quasi-judicial bodies, like NCW in case of women-abuse cases;
- tendency of people, esp the loser party, to file a review petition in the higher judiciary wrt award;

Although Lok Adalats provide an effective instrument to reduce the workload of higher judiciary, there's a need for a few structural reforms to galvanise its effectiveness:

- structural reforms, devolutions of funds, functions, functionaries & framework;
- ~~[illegible]~~ transform public perception by giving better status & emoluments to

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the Bench in Lok Adalats;

- properly sensitising the public about the existence of these instruments so that people can first exhaust this remedy;

The higher judiciary is burdened with more than 3 crore cases currently. An improvised & galvanised Lok Adalat platform can definitely help in this regard.

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15. The provision of 33% reservation of seats for women in urban local body elections in Nagaland has been in news for various reasons in recent times. Discuss the underlying issues in light of the constitutional provisions at stake and the social realities of the state.

हाल ही में नागालैंड में शहरी स्थानीय निकाय के चुनावों में महिलाओं के लिए 33% सीटों के आरक्षण का प्रावधान विभिन्न कारणों से सुर्खियों में रहा है। इस सन्दर्भ में राज्य की सामाजिक वास्तविकताओं तथा दाँव पर लगे संवैधानिक प्रावधानों के आलोक में अंतर्निहित मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

According to Constitutional provisions, there are 33% mandatory reservation for women candidates according to the Schedule XIA and Article 243 in urban local bodies.

However, long after this provision has been constitutionalised, this hasn't been implemented on the ground because it's in contradiction to Naga local customs, enshrined in provisions of Article 371.

The Naga society is deeply patriachal when women are denied

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even basic decision-making rights. As a result, the 33% reservation criteria hasn't been implemented. The state of Nagaland, in fact, hasn't ever sent a woman MP to the Parliament.

Although there's a need to balance provisions of Article 371 with the provisions of Article 243, it must be taken into account that any provision in any part of the Constitution can't be misconstrued to defy the basic structure principle, as enunciated in the Keshavananda Bharati Case, 1973.

The failure to implement 33% reservation for women is violation of Articles 14, 16, 19 and 21 and hence

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neither does Naga customary law nor the provisions of A371 can stand the test of legality.

However since this is an emotive issue, political consensus must be reached with Naga political leaders, with the promise of adequate safeguards, before 33% reservation is implemented, which is inevitable in any case in the long term.

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16. Government advertisements have often been viewed as misuse of taxpayer's money for enhancing the image of political parties. Discuss in the light of relevant SC rulings. Also enumerate the recommendations made by the Twentieth Law Commission to address the issue of paid news and political advertisements.

सरकारी विज्ञापनों को प्राय: राजनीतिक दलों की छवि सुधारने के लिए करदाताओं के धन के दुरुपयोग के रूप में देखा जाता है। सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के प्रासंगिक निर्णयों के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए। पेड न्यूज और राजनीतिक विज्ञापनों के मुद्दे से निपटने के लिए 20वें विधि आयोग द्वारा की गई अनुशंसाओं को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

In the PUCL case of 2015, the apex court made the following announcements:

- only PM, President and CJI of Supreme Court can appear in govt advertisements;
- an independent body to check misuse of taxpayers' money;
- different govt agencies & departments shouldn't publish the same advertisements;

However, the judgement clearly fails to draw the line between genuine need for govt to advertise its policies

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and achievements, and the incidental effect on the popularity of the ruling party.

Without pictures, govt advertisements would be reduced to didactic text which will be a loss to citizens. In the Bennett Coleman case (1988), the apex court supported the case for govt advertisements under Article 19(1)(a) of Part III.

The recommendations made by the 20th Law Commission are banning/prohibition of paid news by making it an electoral offence.

To ensure taxpayers' money isn't misused for govt advts, the CAG should audit the dept of advts, both in terms of compliance & propriety.

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17. A clear delineation of functions of local governments vis-à-vis State Governments will only strengthen the principle of subsidiarity. In this context, discuss the challenges and the reforms required for effective democratic decentralization in India.

राज्य सरकारों के साथ-साथ स्थानीय सरकारों के कार्यों के स्पष्ट आरेखण (निरूपण) से केवल अनुषंगिकता का सिद्धांत पुष्ट होगा। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में प्रभावी लोकतांत्रिक विकेंद्रीकरण के लिए आवश्यक सुधारों और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

According to Nehru, the democracy at the top cannot flourish without a stable and successful one at the bottom. Although the local governments are statutory creations of the State govts, there's a need to clearly delineate functions according to the principles of subsidiarity.

Challenges in the working of local bodies:

- lack of adequate politico-bureaucratic will due to vested interests;
- the environment in the countryside isn't conducive to local governments due to presence of feudalism, casteism & patriarchy;

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- increasing use of money and ~~of~~ muscle power in local body elections;
- restrictive norms of eligibility, such as in Haryana → 2 child norm, educational qualifications;
- existence of parallel state agencies like District Rural Development Agency leading to conflict in jurisdictions;
- local body functioning dominated by MPs & MLAs;
- lack of devolution of Funds, Functions, Functionaries and Framework;

Therefore, the reforms needed for democratic decentralisation are:

- capacity-building of functionaries;
- clarity in delineating subjects under

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Schedule XI & XI A;

- devolving Funds, Functionaries, Functions & Framework in both letter & spirit;
- electoral funding reforms and checking criminalization;
- avoid restrictive eligibility criteria and at best they should start from the Parliament-level;
- ARC 2 → a system representing Chief Minister & CDMs at district level and district bureaucracy must cooperate with local bodies;

There's a need to empower local bodies to help initiate faster socio-economic development at the grassroots level.

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18. Vast powers have been vested in the office of the Speaker to strengthen the democratic institutions of the parliamentary system, and not to stifle dissent or protest in the House. Comment in the context of India.

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष के पद में निहित व्यापक शक्तियां वस्तुतः संसदीय प्रणाली के लोकतांत्रिक संस्थानों को सशक्त बनाने के लिए प्रदान की गयी है, न कि सदन में मतभेद या विरोध को दबाने के लिए। भारत के संदर्भ में टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The office of the Speaker of the House of the People is a highly august and honorable under the Indian Constitution.

The Speaker is provided numerous safeguards to function according to the best of democratic principles.

- difficult procedure of removal;
- expenses are charged expenditure;
- is allowed only a casting vote;
- conduct cannot be discussed unless removal resolution is being discussed

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Issues in the office of Speaker:

- misuse of powers under Schedule X to manage the number ~~of~~ on the floor of the House in favour of the ruling party;
- misuse of powers under Article 110 & 199;
- expunging words from proceedings that are critical of ruling party;
- misuse of disciplinary powers;

The way forward:

- powers under Schedule X can be given to Election Commission;
- British convention of 'Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker, and then nothing else' → gives a second term, constituency should go uncontested by rivals, after that no office under original party;

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- as soon as one's elected, resignation from the primary membership of the party;

There's also a need for a broad-based selection of a seasoned statesman as the Speaker, with restriction on future offices, leaving only those of the President and the Vice President.

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19. Tenth Schedule of the Constitution and the subsequent amendments have failed at solving the problem of defections and opportunistic politics. Critically analyse.

संविधान की दसवीं अनुसूची तथा उत्तरवर्ती संशोधन दल-बदल और अवसरवादी राजनीति की समस्या का समाधान करने में विफल रहे हैं। आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Schedule X of the Constitution refers to Defection powers given to the Speaker of the Legislature. The most important amendment to schedule X was brought in 1985.

Issues in Schedule X

- the Speaker misusing the power to manage the arithmetic on the floor of the house;
- defections allowed in wholesale (2/3) but not in retail (1/3);
- the absence of pre-election & post-election coalition partners ~~in~~ under the ambit of defection;

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- failure to implement the apex court's Kihoto Hollohan judgement of 1992 in letter and spirit;

- the MPs failing to give genuine representations to their constituency because of gagging by whip;

- the ruling govt only needs to convince the leader of other parties to pass their business;

- immoral practices like cash for votes scam;

Ideally, the powers must be given to the Election Commission under Schedule X. The Speaker cannot be expected of unbiased and non-partisan

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behavior unless there are codified restrictions on future office. Coalition parties must be brought under the Schedule X. The recent case of floor management in Tamil Nadu assembly makes it highly urgent to implement these measures.

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20. It is the Parliamentary system, with its basis on constant accountability, accommodation and inclusion, which can best serve the needs of the country. Examine, keeping in mind the arguments that are periodically put forward for adopting the Presidential system in India.

यह निरंतर जवाबदेही, समायोजन और समावेशन पर आधारित संसदीय प्रणाली ही है, जो देश की आवश्यकताएं सर्वोत्तम ढंग से पूरी कर सकती है। भारत में राष्ट्रपति प्रणाली अपनाने के लिए समय-समय पर प्रस्तुत किए जाने वाले तर्कों को ध्यान में रखते हुए परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Constituent Assembly adopted the ~~Weste~~ Westminster system of Parliamentary democracy instead of the Presidential system, keeping in mind the needs of the country.

① less chances of conflict between the executive & the legislature;

② accountability of the Executive;

③ better representation in the governance → regionally & community-wise;

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④ less chances of rise of personality cult;

⑤ the British system of administration since 1861 had been a Parliamentary model;

⑥ different social and economic groups ~~that~~ could be represented;

However, periodically arguments are put forward for adopting the Presidential system in India:

① stability in governance due to fixed tenure;

② better expertise in Cabinet and no constraint in choices;

③ faster and consistent policy-making;

④ no instability due to coalition politics;

⑤ less chances of friction between Formal Head and Executive Head;

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As a result, although the Presidential system although offers its own set of benefits, there are inherent no limitations in the Parliamentary system which can be leveraged to suit India's needs.

According to Sir Alexander Pope, "For forms of government, let fools contest. ~~For~~ What governs best, is the best."

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Name of Candidate	MUKUL JAMLOKI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	28393
Center	Old Rajendra Nagar	Date	30/08/17

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. Identify the key objectives of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. Also highlight the challenges in its implementation.

यौन अपराधों से बच्चों का संरक्षण (POCSO) अधिनियम, 2012 के प्रमुख उद्देश्यों की पहचान कीजिए। साथ ही, इसके क्रियान्वयन में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 is a landmark legislation enacted to safeguard children against their ~~rio~~ rights violation.

The key objectives behind this legislation were:

- protection against sexual offences, which can have a very damaging effect on the psyche of the child;
- comprehensively define all forms of sexual assaults;
- ability to render quick justice to the victim;
- special safeguards to ensure that the judicial-

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legal process is aligned with the sensibilities and the innocence of the children

- enable children and their guardians to come forward pro-actively to register their complaints;

India has seen a spurt in crimes against women and marginalized sections of society, especially against children and that too heinous crimes. According to NCRB data, an approx 20 cases daily, relevant under the POCSO, were registered between 2012 and 2014.

However, there have been numerous challenges plaguing this well-intentioned law:

- poor quality of public prosecution;
- inability of the victims to come to terms to the judicial-legal process;

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- problems in successful rehabilitation of victims;
- social stigma attached to registering their cases when there are leaks (inordinate) about the identity of victims and their families;

Measures which can improve POCSO (2012):

- an enabling environment for victims so that they can record their statements;
- taking evidence from victim, include identification of perpetrator, in the absence of latter;
- strictly protecting identity of victims;
- propping up conviction rates through quick judicial process

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2. Discuss how the design of MGNREGA program makes it more successful than other rural development programmes.
चर्चा कीजिए कि मनरेगा कार्यक्रम की अभिकल्पना (डिजाईन) इसे अन्य ग्रामीण विकास कार्यक्रमों की तुलना में कैसे अधिक सफल बनाती है।

The landmark MGNREGA legislation of Indian State was launched with the twin aims of boosting rural infrastructure and providing employment to those in distress. Under MGNREGA, one adult member from each family is promised/given 100 days of non-skilled labour in one financial year.

The reasons which make it more successful than the rural development programmes are:

→ target for women is minimum 33% but for the last three years the total of women beneficiaries is more than 50%;
employment has a multiplier effect on women's social & economic status;

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→ boosting employment opportunities for poorly skilled SCs & STs;

→ comprehensive definition of MGNREGA works including those related to agriculture and allied activities like dairy, poultry, etc;

→ since the labourers' self interest is involved with the rural infra projects like roads, floods' control, therefore more sustainability of the projects;

→ enable building of social capital to solve local problems together using local resources;

However, a few challenges remain:

→ durability of projects and their repetitive nature;

→ delay in payments and they are not indexed according to inflation;

→ people don't learn new skills to generate sustainable livelihoods;

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→ exclusion of genuine beneficiaries due to govt's ridiculous over emphasis on Aadhaar seeding.

The above problems can be solved by tailoring the issues into a revised MGNREGA scheme. LIFE-MGNREGA which entails skills development is one of the path-breaking solutions to the above problems.

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3. Self-employment of the poor has been an important objective of the anti-poverty programmes and SHGs have played a significant role in this. Elucidate with examples. Also discuss the problems which plague the model of SHG micro-finance in India.

गरीबों के लिए स्व-रोजगार वस्तुतः गरीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रमों का एक महत्वपूर्ण उद्देश्य रहा है तथा SHGs ने इसमें एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। उदाहरण सहित स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में SHG माइक्रो-फाइनेंस (सूक्ष्म वित्त) के मॉडल को अवरुद्ध करने वाली समस्याओं पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Self Help Groups (SHGs) are informal associations of people, usually women, who come together to pool in their resources and engage in ~~sel~~ employment-generation activities. They save collectively, can therefore invest collected capital and act as a conduit for formal finance channels to reach them.

Some famous SHGs are SEWA in Gujarat (Ahmedabad) and AMUL in Anand (Gujarat). Once these employment generation activities become sustainable thanks to micro finance from banking, they lead to increase in assets which can be suitable redeployed to transform into micro-entrepreneurship ventures.

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In the AMUL case particularly, millions of rural women in Saurashtra region of Gujarat were organised by the pioneering efforts of Dr Varghese Kurien to unleash the white revolution. Similar successful models have been replicated at many places.

The problems plaguing this SHG microfinance model in India are:

→ territorial variation, successful only in Western and southern India mostly;

→ not able to take roots in urban or semi-urban areas inspite of better density of formal finance channels;

→ politicisation of SHGs due to initial capital provided through political patronage;

→ conflicts between SHGs and Panchayati Raj Institutions;

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ failed to transform from collective employment generation to micro-entrepreneurship;

→ lack of incentives for NGOs to enable hand-holding processes;

→ post-1991 reforms benefits haven't been able to reach the SHGs;

The government and the civil society organisations both need to work in tandem to hand-hold the SHGs towards progress. Schemes like National Rural Livelihoods Mission are important. Corporates can help via CSR contributions and the SHGs can benefit from each other utilising each's set of competencies. Digital technologies can boost growth, such as example of Mahila e-Haat.

— x —

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4. Give an account of the issues that arise due to short tenure of civil servants in India. Critically discuss the move of setting up a Civil Services Board in order to address this problem.

भारत में सिविल सेवकों के छोटे कार्यकाल के कारण उठने वाले मुद्दों का एक विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। इस मुददे को संबोधित करने के लिए सिविल सेवा बोर्ड की स्थापना करने की पहल पर आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

The civil services in India are one of the most important instruments of the State to enable developmental growth, democratic outputs, and the empowerment of citizens, especially the marginalised sections.

However, due to a complex 'Chakravyuha' of rules, ideologies and lacuna of legal (enforceable) provisions, the tenure of civil servants in India is gradually decreasing. For example in the last five years, the average tenure of a SP in Uttar Pradesh has been less than an year.

The issues that arise due to this pattern are:

→ status-quoist orientation of civil servants;

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ gradual politicisation;

→ inability to properly transform schemes into results on the ground;

→ erosion of public ~~off~~ ~~in~~ confidence in state institutions;

→ gradual break in civil servants' connect with actual ground conditions;

→ developmental failures and democratic deficits;

→ lack of accountability and transparency in bureaucratic processes;

In the view of the above problems, the SC of India in the TSR Subramanian Case asked the government to bring in civil services reforms, in which Civil Services Board would be the most important spoke in the wheel:

→ mandatory 2 year posting on critical positions;

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ tenure would be controlled by members of the board who would send their recommendations to the political executive;

→ systematic analysis of performance, going beyond just the ACRs;

→ no knee-jerk actions;

→ ability to defend oneself in case of mishaps or accidents;

The Civil Services Board can be a radical and at the same time a very pragmatic solution to deal with the problems plaguing our civil services. However, the political will ~~betw~~ required to set it up is conspicuously absent.

— x —

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. India's health system is one of the most privatised in the world, poorly regulated and accessible only to those with income levels well above the average. Comment.

भारत की स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली विश्व में सर्वाधिक निजीकृत प्रणालियों में से एक होने के साथ-साथ, अपर्याप्त रूप से विनियमित और केवल औसत आय के स्तर से ऊपर के लोगों को सुलभ है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

With the public health expenditure at just 1.4% of the ~~budget~~ GDP, according to Budget 2016-17, India ranks poorly among the community of nations. More than 75% of health expenditure is OOPE and 2/3 of it is spent on drugs and diagnostics.

According to NSSO data (2011-12), only 22% and 28% of health facilities are provided by public utilities at rural and urban level respectively and only 11.5% below the district level. Nearly one-third posts at the level of Primary Health Care centres are lying empty.

~~India's~~

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ out of $146 ppp spend on health, only $44 ppp is provided by government

→ exploitation by pvt providers in the form of sink tests, high cost drugs due to doctors-industry nexus, high number of C-sections (40% according to NFHS-4), etc.

→ steady erosion of patient-doctor trust;

→ even where there are regulations on charges for hospitalisation and drugs, poor implementation;

The solutions to these problems are:

→ atleast 4-5% of GDP spend on public health (NHP 2017's target inadequate)

→ Indian Medical Association's code of ethics should be vigorously implemented;

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ focus on preventive healthcare by boosting primary health centres;

→ boost the Jan Aushadhi Yojana

→ boost NPPA efforts such as fixing the MRPs of heart stents and knee implants;

→ boost immunisation under Mission Indradhanush;

→ focus on health and nutrition of women and children;

If India wants to utilise its demographic dividend, then it must focus on investing in health of its people. Although the NHP 2017 is promising, but health spending must increase and Right to health must become a fundamental right.

—— x ——

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Keeping in mind the importance of NGOs in India's development process it is imperative that adequate legal and regulatory mechanisms should be in place. Discuss in the context of recent developments.

भारत के विकास की प्रक्रिया में NGOs के महत्व को ध्यान में रखते हुए इनके लिए पर्याप्त कानूनी एवं विनियामक तंत्र का होना अत्यावश्यक हो जाता है। हाल के विकास संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

NGOs are legally constituted organisations, that are non-state and usually non-profit, and work for purposes of public interest. They may or may not be funded by the government. The 2nd ARC in its report "Social Capital: A Shared Future" highlights their importance.

→ they engage in discussions with the state improving the policy designs;

→ they try to bring congruence between policy design & people's needs & sensibilities;

→ they spread awareness among people, catalysing good governance;

→ help in find innovative solutions to local problems using local solutions;

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ help citizens in holding the state institutions accountable;

However, in recent times, NGOs in India have been engulfed in a myriad of legal & regulatory challenges.

→ according to a CBI report produced in supreme court, only 8-10% of nearly 31 lakh NGOs file their annual returns;

→ NGOs like Compassionate International have been accused of enducing conversions;

→ allegations of money laundering & helping terrorists;

→ allegations of pursuing interests detrimental to national interests, eg. evoking protest movements against atomic plants;

The solutions possible:

→ NGOs must evolve a credible legal & regulatory framework of their functioning,

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

together with performance & financial audits, to ensure transparency & accountability;

→ even if they're not mandated to pay Income Tax, IT returns should be filed;

→ draconian provisions in the FCRA should be repealed, because the govt can curb dissent through it;

→ the govt must practise what it preaches, transparency in NGO funding without transparency in political funding won't find many ~~takers~~ takers;

The NGOs can help in bridging ~~developing~~ developmental gaps & democratic deficits in a developing country like ours in an incredible way.

— x —

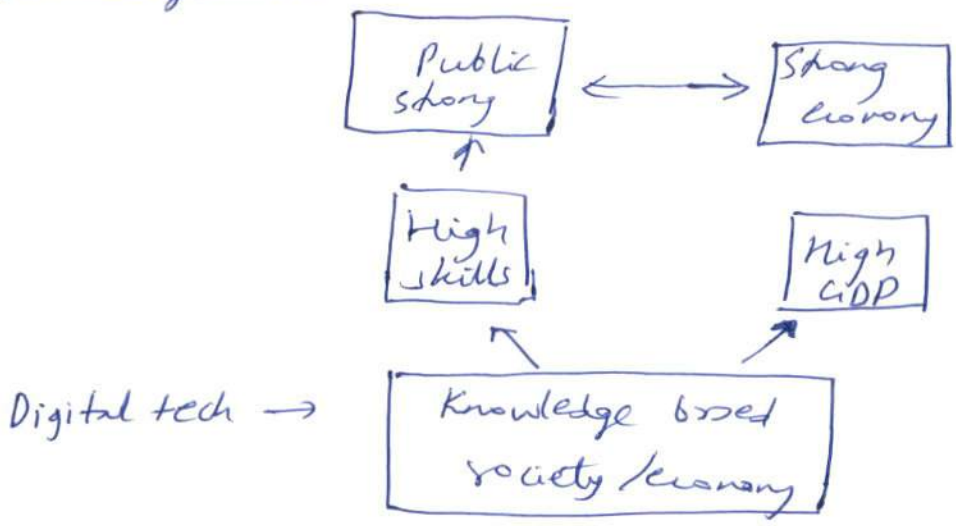
Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. While on one hand, there has been proliferation of use of digital technology, on the other hand, resulting digital dividends have not been forthcoming. Analyse.

जहाँ एक ओर डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी के उपयोग का प्रसार बढ़ रहा है, वहीं दूसरी ओर परिणामी डिजिटल लाभांश प्राप्त नहीं हो रहे हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

~~Digital technology →~~

~~knowledge based~~



Digital India

→ Finance : PMJDY, eFMS, Aadhar, PAHAL, DBT,

→ Edu : Swayam, Swayam Prabha

→ Gov : mygov, Digilocker

e-kranti →

44 MMPs

3300 eservices

~~eg~~

Tele-law initiative

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Drawbacks:

→ problems of under-exclusion;

→ digital divide across social & economic strata;

→ cyber threats;

→ lack of digital literacy;

→ women & marginalised sections excluded;

→ budgetary constraints;

→ interoperability of platforms;

→ status-quoist orientation of bureaucracy;

→ opaque decision-making;

→ top-down approach;

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Govt schemes →

- Aadhaar
- DBT
- Digital Saksharta Abhiyan
- Digi Dhan Mela
- MOOCs

—— x ——

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. The public policy requirements of the 21st century demand a bureaucracy less generalist in nature. Analyse in the context of Indian civil services.

21वीं सदी की सार्वजनिक नीति वस्तुतः एक कम सामान्यज्ञ नौकरशाही की मांग करती है। भारतीय सिविल सेवा के संदर्भ में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The structure of the Indian bureaucracy is a colonial legacy. It was constituted to serve the colonial interests →

- exploitation of resources,
- suppress people's aspirations,
- opaque policy-making;
- manipulation of civil society activism.

As a result, what we had was a generalist service, and the IAS being among them a generalist service par excellence. However, the public policy requirements of the 21st century require:

- functional civil services due to increased technicality of govt processes;
- adding efficiency & ~~ti~~ quickness to decision-making;

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- involving relevant civil society orgs to bring about changes on ground;
- need for specialisation;
- tackle multi-dimensional nature of problems like pollution, traffic managements, etc;
- moving from state socialism to market initiatives;
- regulator → facilitator;

Solutions:

→ making civil servants compulsorily choose a ~~sep~~ specialisation;

→ regular training & performance appraisal;

→ lateral entry;

→ weaken cadre-based civil services;

→ break the monopolisation of IAS;

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ civil services reforms;

The public policy requirements of bridging democratic deficits & developmental gaps require a more specialist civil service. Today we need more technocrats than bureaucrats.

—— x ——

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. Explain how the National Digital Library (NDL) can bring a fundamental shift in the paradigm of education and research. Also highlight the challenges that need to be addressed to make NDL self-sustainable.

व्याख्या कीजिए कि राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल लाइब्रेरी (NDL) किस प्रकार शिक्षा व अनुसंधान के चिंतनफलक में एक आधारभूत परिवर्तन ला सकता है। साथ ही, NDL को आत्म-धारणीय (सेल्फ-सस्टेनेबल) बनाने हेतु उन चुनौतियों को रेखांकित कीजिए जिन्हें संबोधित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

The National Digital Library is a pioneer effort of the GoI under the Digital India Mission which can bring about an outstanding revolution in the field of education and research.

India Facts

- drop out rate of girls in secondary level = 20%
- only IISc & IITB in top 300 global univs
- 184 mi adult women illiterates
- 103 mi adult men literates
- 3.0% of GDP, aggregate edu budget
- primary enrollment ratio 63.1%.
- mean years of schooling for female is 3.6 yrs (UNDP)

The above facts highlight the plethora of challenges facing the Indian education & research sector. In light of

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these problems, the NDL promises a radical shift through:

→ boosting the quality of material available;

→ reducing expenditure on human resources & shifting it to quality of education;

→ universalising education & research;

→ bridging rural & urban gaps;

→ bringing marginalised section into mainstream;

→ effective utilisation of budget;

→ enabling researches to collaborate on digital platforms;

→ plug administrative delays & inefficiencies;

Although the NDL promises a lot of benefits, there are challenges to be addressed to make it self-sustainable:

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ bridging the digital divide across various social and economic strata;

→ adequate funding for digital infra to host such an ambitious project;

→ proper safeguards against cyber threats;

→ interoperability among various digital platforms;

The Digital India Programme can be adequately utilised to promote & boost the NDL. It'd help India bridge its learning & research deficits and properly utilise its demographic dividend.

—— x ——

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. Census 2011 observed that there has been a significant increase in urban homeless households in the period between 2001 and 2011. What are homeless households? Highlighting the challenges faced by them, discuss the causes for increase in such households. Suggest various measures to rehabilitate these households.

2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार वर्ष 2001 से 2011 की अवधि में शहरी बेघर परिवारों की संख्या में सार्थक वृद्धि हुई है। बेघर परिवार से क्या तात्पर्य है? उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, ऐसे परिवारों की संख्या में होने वाली वृद्धि के कारणों की चर्चा कीजिए। इन परिवारों के पुनर्वास हेतु विभिन्न उपाय सुझाएँ।

According to Census 2011, there's been a 9.4% increase in homeless households to approx 3 million. These are those households that lack any adequate housing facilities and live by the roadsides, public parks, etc.

The challenges faced by them:

→ food insecurity, due to non inter-state transferability of ~~too~~ PDS;

→ education insecurity, due to identity problems;

→ health & sanitation;

→ exploitation by anti-social elements such as begging, prostitution, begar, etc.

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The reasons for their increase are:

→ failure of trickle down model of GDP growth;

→ climate refugees, such as those from floods & earthquakes;

→ rural agrarian distress, and therefore forced to migrate to cities;

→ catastrophic situations such as health or financial emergencies;

The various measures to rehabilitate them are:

→ draft People in Destitution (Model) Bill, 2016 by MSJE;

→ inter-state transferability of PDS and Aadhaar seeding;

→ MGNREGA in urban areas;

→ PM Awas Yojana's sub-mission to provide cheap, ecologically fit homes;

→ registration of such people & protection

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provided by law enforcement agencies;

→ Swachha Bharat (Urban) implementation;

If we want to accomplish Gandhiji's aim of wiping every tear from every eye, we need to rehabilitate these poverty and destitute homeless households.

— x —

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

11. What is the criteria for a village being recognized as electrified? Examine the challenges present in rural electrification in India. Elaborate upon some of the recent initiatives of the government with a special emphasis on Deen Dayal Upadhayaya Gram Jyoti Yojana.

एक गाँव को विद्युतीकृत गाँव के रूप में मान्यता प्रदान करने के लिए क्या मानदंड हैं? भारत में ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण में विद्यमान चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए। इसके अतिरिक्त, दीन दयाल उपाध्याय ग्राम ज्योति योजना पर विशेष बल देते हुए इस दिशा में सरकार द्वारा हाल में उठाए गए कुछ कदमों पर सविस्तार चर्चा कीजिए।

The criteria for a village being recognised as electrified are:

→ 10% of village households having electricity connection, including the 'dalit bosti' in the village;

→ village ~~offices~~ infra such as schools & panchayat offices electrified;

→ distribution transformer & associated infra in the village premises;

According to latest reports from Ministry of Power, more than 95% of villages in India are electrified.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Challenges faced in rural electrification:

→ budgetary constraints;

→ lack of adequate Right of Way;

→ lack of trained personnel;

→ administrative lapses & leakages;

→ problems of over-inclusion and under-inclusion;

Some of the recent initiatives of GoI in this regard are:

→ boost to renewables with a target of 175 GW by 2022;

→ Integrated Power Distribution Scheme;

→ improving delays in supply of coal to thermal power plants;

→ new hydro projects;

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→ Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana

- emphasis on feeder separation between agricultural & personal uses;
- target of 100% rural electrification;
- improving rural electricity infra to reduce transmission & distribution losses;
- GARV mobile app to track live updates

Although the government's initiatives are promising, what's needed in the 21st century to make Digital India a success is to shift the goalpost, from 10% of households to atleast 50%.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

12. While the Right to Education (RTE) Act was based on noble intentions, implementation of many of its provisions remain ridden with problems. Discuss.

यद्यपि शिक्षा का अधिकार (RTE) अधिनियम महान उद्देश्यों पर आधारित था, फिर भी इसके कई प्रावधानों का क्रियान्वयन समस्याओं से भरा हुआ है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Right to Education Act was enacted to guarantee free and fair education to all children between the ages 6 to 14, so as to invest in the demographic dividend of the future. Moreover, RTE isn't just a means to an end, but an end in itself because primary education is a fundamental right, enunciated as long back as in 1931 Congress Karachi session.

It led to:

→ sharp increase in enrollment levels;

→ sharp increase in expected years of schooling & mean years of schooling according to UNDP reports;

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ exposure of children to innovative thoughts and free thinking;

→ building a solid base on which proper skilling can make the person engage in gainful employment;

→ remedy against social evils, superstitions, prejudices, and helping building a secular, democratic & plural society;

However many of its provisions have remained ridden with problems:

→ lack of adequate infra for school;

→ lack of adequate manpower in terms of both ~~mar~~ quality & quantity;

→ declining quality of mid-day meals;

→ low retention ratios;

→ steadily declining enrollment rate & proliferation of pvt schools;

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

The solutions to these problems are:

→ increasing edu spending from 3% to atleast 6% of GDP;

→ teacher qualifications/standards must be adequate;

→ use Aadhaar/biometric to tackle teacher absenteeism;

→ boost quality of Midday meals;

Proper implementation of RTE can help in utilising our demographic dividend.

— x —

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. Critically examining the key provisions of The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016, discuss whether a complete ban on commercial surrogacy is justified.
सरोगेसी (विनियमन) विधेयक 2016 के प्रमुख प्रावधानों का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए, साथ ही इस पर चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या वाणिज्यिक सरोगेसी पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध न्यायोचित है?

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill's key provisions are:

→ completely banning commercial surrogacy & allowing only ethical, altruistic surrogacy;

→ allowing only childless married Indian citizens who are infertile for more than 5 years;

→ setting up boards at ~~national &~~ state & district levels to monitor the ethical surrogacy processes & cases;

The provisions are based on the law commission's 228th report →

→ ban all forms of commercial surrogacy;

→ ban all foreigners & PIOs;

→ ban single parents;

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ ban people in live-in-relationships or same sex relationships;

→ regulations of ethical surrogacy;

→ ban couples with one child, whether biological or adopted

However, there are a few questions which arise due to the above provisions:

→ denial of a woman of control over her bodily integrity and reproductive rights;

→ whether banning single parents or couples who are not married will stand legal scrutiny under reasonable classification of Article 14(2);

→ problems of business of commercial surrogacy going underground;

→ surge in pvt clinical health facilities may ~~get~~ ~~take~~ step back;

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

However in sum, a complete ban on commercial surrogacy is justified if implemented vigorously because:

→ exploitation of women for her womb;

→ doubts about citizenship of child in case commissioning parents get divorced ~~during~~ before birth;

→ high MMR in India;

→ global tendency towards abolishing it;

———————— x ————————

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. It is often strongly suggested that scarce government resources should be redirected in favour of primary education rather than higher education. In this context, analyse whether curtailing public spending in higher education would help in achieving the principle of equity.

प्रायः मजबूती से यह तर्क प्रस्तुत किया जाता है कि अत्यल्प सरकारी संसाधनों को उच्च शिक्षा के बजाय प्राथमिक शिक्षा की ओर पुनर्निर्देशित किया जाना चाहिए। इस संदर्भ में विश्लेषण कीजिए कि क्या उच्च शिक्षा पर होने वाले सार्वजनिक खर्च में कटौती करने से समता के सिद्धांत को प्राप्त करने में सहायता मिलेगी?

The recent TSR Subramanian Committee's report on Education Reforms in India have reiterated the already existing suggestions that the scarce govt resources should be redirected in favour of primary education than higher education.

The reasons are:

→ extremely inadequate infra at primary level;

→ poor manpower ~~because of~~ in quantity & quality;

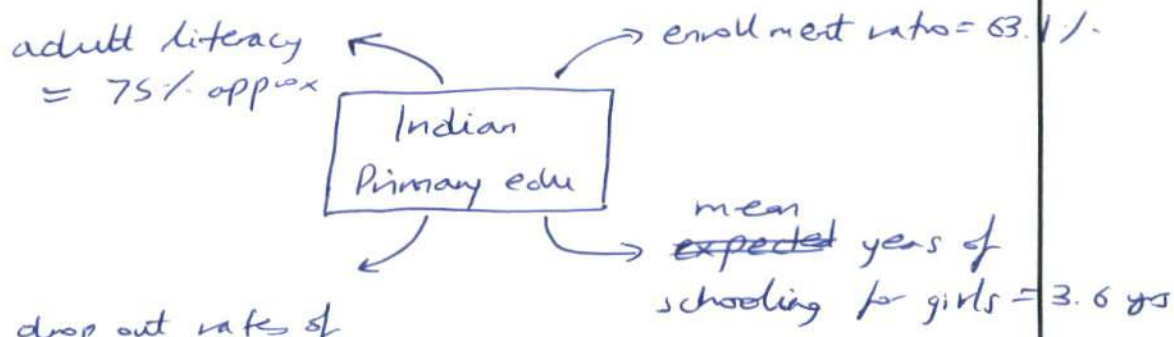
→ poor enrollment ratios, poor retention & poor outcomes;

→ the Right to Primary education is a Fundamental Right, not Right to

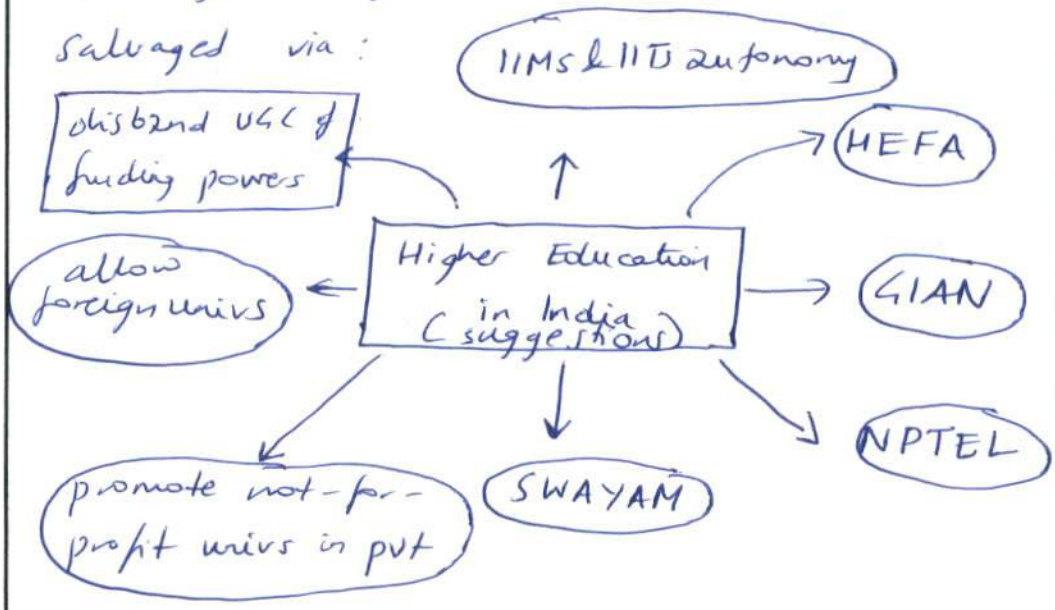
Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Higher education;

→ the foundation of a child's career needs to be strong which can be achieved only through quality education;



Given the above arguments & facts, there's a genuine case for curtailing public spending in higher edu which can be salvaged via:



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The govt can also:

→ ~~ask~~ attract Pravasi Bhatiya community to contribute through alumni n/ws;

→ use of bond market;

→ salvage IPRs & patents;

→ boost startups;

→ move from role of regulator to facilitator;

→ allow for-profit orgs but actively promote non-profit ones;

→ increase spending on edu to at least 6% of GDP;

A strong foundation via primary edu & a market linked higher edu shall help us utilise our demographic dividend.

— x —

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15. Accessibility is the key to inclusion and equal access for people with disabilities. Analyse. Also discuss the objectives and components of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan with a special emphasis on inclusiveness and accessibility index.

निःशक्त जनों के समावेशन एवं समान पहुंच के लिए सुगम्यता (प्रवेशयोग्यता) एक महत्वपूर्ण कुंजी है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, समावेशन और सुगम्यता सूचकांक पर विशेष बल देते हुए हाल ही में आरंभ सुगम्य भारत अभियान के उद्देश्यों और घटकों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

According to Census 2011, there are approx 26 million PwDs in India, with 17 mi males & 9 mi females, and 70% residing in rural areas.

Although there have been schems & progs for PwDs to lead hassle-free, inclusive lives with dignity & self-confidence, the Accessibility component is starkly missing from the trinity of Availability & Affordability. The problem is stark for rural PwDs. For example, we have RTE, NFSA, National Handicapped Finance & Dev Corp, MUDRA Yojana, etc but the PwDs lack the accessibility to these provisions, due to administrative leakages, problems of under-inclusion and lack of an enabling environment.

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In this regard, the GoI launched the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan with the following components:

→ barrier free public infrastructure;

→ accessible ICT technologies & digital services;

→ access to public transport facilities without any hassles.

The objective is to enable PWDs lead a life of dignity & self-confidence & socio-economically empower them & integrate them with the society.

The accessibility index is a transformatory instrument that'd rank organisations based on:

→ proportion of PWDs employed;

→ inclusive HR policies;

→ inclusive work ~~at~~ environment & office infra;

→ projects & office dynamics which are inclusive;

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This accessibility index will be popularised & publicised so that a healthy competition can take place b/w organisations leading to eventual benefit of the PWDs.

—— x ——

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16. The Olympic Task Force constituted to prepare an action plan for the next three Olympic Games is a step in the right direction. Comment. Also highlight other initiatives required to augment India's performance in the sporting arena internationally.

आगामी तीन ओलंपिक खेलों के लिए कार्य योजना (एक्शन प्लान) तैयार करने हेतु गठित ओलंपिक टास्क फोर्स सही दिशा में उठाया गया एक कदम है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धाओं में भारत के प्रदर्शन को बेहतर बनाने के लिए अन्य वांछित पहलों को रेखांकित कीजिए।

India's 88-member squad for the 2012 London Olympics got 6 medals while the 120 member squad for the 2016 Rio Olympics got just 2 medals, thanks to PV Sindhu & Sakshi Malik. Given the urgent need for improve ~~sporting~~ sports performances at the int'l levels, PM N. Modi constituted an Olympic Task Force to prepare an action plan for the next 3 olympics.

The mandate given to the OTF includes:

→ procedure to identify & ~~goop~~ groom talent;

→ identify infra constraints;

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→ identify weak spots in talent grooming;
→ devise a dynamic & impactful budgetary formula;
→ attract talent from other fields into sports;
→ popularise sports for the masses;

The OTF is chaired by Mr Abhinav Bindra, India's only gold individual gold medallist in the Olympics.

The other initiatives required to augment India's performance in the sporting arena internationally are:

→ transform image of sports from one of the classes to one for the masses;
→ health & nutrition focus;
→ better int'l exposure;
→ bridge infra deficits;

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→ rewarding performances suitably;
→ de-politicisation of sports federations;
→ a sports bill with ethical & legal safeguards;
→ linking sports with markets to boost investments

If India wants to attain an image equal to its capabilities among the community of nations, there needs to transformative changes in India's ~~sporting~~ sports mechanisms

—— x ——

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17. Recent judgment of the Supreme Court, amending the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 has invoked varied reponses. Highlighting the amendment, critically examine its likely impact on the application of the law.

घरेलू हिंसा से महिलाओं का संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2005 में संशोधन हेतु सुप्रीम कोर्ट के हालिया निर्णय से विभिन्न प्रकार की प्रतिक्रियाएँ सामने आई हैं। उक्त संशोधन पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इस क़ानून के अनुप्रयोग पर इसके संभावित प्रभावों का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

From 2012 to 2014, nearly 48000 dowry-related deaths in India and FIRs filed in 93.1% cases under section 498A of IPC. However conviction rate of barely 14% made the Supreme Court inquire into effectiveness of PWDVA, 2005.

Provisions of new amendments:

→ formation of district welfare committees who'd examine complaints under Sec 498A and whose recommendations should be used by police to file case;

→ 2014 judgement had introduced 9-point checklist before making an arrest;

→ penalty for false cases filed;

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Issues involved:

→ perception of alleged misuse among patriarchal society;

→ arbitrary arrests, with a motive of extortion, and possibility of reconciliation;

→ genuine need to make it a ~~togn~~ bailable event;

→ custodial interrogation vs arrest;

→ social stigma of arrest, esp for unmarried women members of accused's family;

→ small but genuine cases of misuse;

→ protection & remedy for millions of genuine victims;

→ slow moving judicial-legal process;

Solutions:

→ the low conviction rate is due to slow-moving judicial process & we'd need fast track courts;

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→ it needs a legally trained mind to be appointed to district welfare committees, not arbitrary appointments;

→ 2014 judgement was progressive enough, 2017 judgement is very harmful for genuine victims;

→ need to move forward to custodial interrogation & ~~bailable~~ preventive detention;

With more than 20 dowry related deaths alone, there's no need to weaken the legislation. Perceived sense of alleged misuse & small ~~percg~~ percentage of genuine misuse cannot simply overshadow the protection provided to millions of genuine victims.

—— x ——

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18. Inspite of its usefulness as a tool of transparency and accountability, the RTI Act needs to be amended as it is being widely misused, especially to blackmail public functionaries. Critically examine.

पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही के एक उपकरण के रूप RTI की उपयोगिता के बावजूद, इस कानून को संशोधित करने की आवश्यकता है क्योंकि इसका व्यापक दुरुपयोग किया जा रहा है, वह भी विशेष रूप से सार्वजनिक पदाधिकारियों को ब्लैकमेल करने के लिए। आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

The RTI Act was a landmark legislation that provided common citizens to become active collaborators in policy making & policy implementation, ushering an era of transparency & accountability.

Positives →

- expose corruption;
- improve transfer of benefits through accountability;
- improvement in democratic deficits & developmental gaps;
- congruence between plans & people's aspirations & urges;

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Negatives:

→ loss of man-hours due to inundation with vexatious RTI appeals;

→ genuine cases of bureaucratic mistakes now prone to victimisation on account of corruption;

→ causing administrative delays;

→ judicial involvement chances have increased;

Critical evaluation of negatives:

→ blackmail of public functionaries who are genuine victims can be safeguards under relevant provisions of PCA, 1988;

→ adequate resources must be deployed to tackle RTI load;

→ need for pro-active suo motu disclosures;

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→ judicial activism needs to be curbed

There's absolutely no case for diluting the RTI law, as proposed in the draft RTI laws, 2017. There's need to rather strengthen it. Until political financing reforms & bureaucratic reforms ~~too~~ don't come, RTI is the most imp tool against corruption.

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19. The transgender community has been among one of the most marginalized communities in India. Discuss. How does the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016 seek to protect transgenders from discrimination and address the problems faced by them?

ट्रांसजेंडर समुदाय भारत में सर्वाधिक वंचित समुदायों में से एक रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए। दि ट्रांसजेंडर पर्सन (प्रोटेक्शन ऑफ़ राईट) बिल 2016 {ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्ति (अधिकारों का संरक्षण) विधेयक-2016} ट्रांसजेंडरों के साथ होने वाले भेदभाव से संरक्षण एवं उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली समस्याओं को किस प्रकार संबोधित करने का प्रयास करता है?

The transgender community is the most marginalised in India due to:

~~social~~

- social stigma;
- identity crisis;
- lack of inclusive edu & employment;

There's need for their integration into society through qualitative & quantitative means, such as the example of Kerala recently organising a Transgender Sports meet.

Provisions of the 2016 Bill:

→ ~~pro~~ edu & employment opportunities;

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→ rehabilitation schemes;

→ health & nutrition;

→ discrimination in spheres of public life;

→ identity issue addressed;

Shortcomings →

- narrow definition of 'transgender';
- no self identification, opposed to NALSA judgement of 2014;
- no guaranteed edu & employment & rehabilitation process;
- restrictions on dressing patterns & freedom of movement;
- lack of adequate legal remedies;
- no provisions for affirmative discrimination;

Although the Bill is a welcome development but it suffers from many loopholes. Need to implement

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it vigorously & if possible, borrow from the much progressive RS pvt member's Transgender's Bill, 2015.

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20. Though the Forest Rights Act 2006 tries to undo the historic injustice done to the forest dweller and tribals, it has been argued that it is being misused. Critically analyse.

यद्यपि वन अधिकार अधिनियम 2006 वनवासियों और आदिवासियों के साथ हुए ऐतिहासिक अन्याय को समाप्त करने का प्रयास करता है, लेकिन यह तर्क दिया जा रहा है कि इसका दुरूपयोग किया जा रहा है। आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1024)

Name of Candidate	MUKUL JAMLOKI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	28393
Center	OLD RAJENDRA NAGAR	Date	15/09/17

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

75, 3rd Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar Market, Near Axis Bank, New Delhi – 110060

103, 1st Floor, B/1-2, Ansal Building, Behind UCO Bank, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi – 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. The idea of Universal Basic income has gained appeal in recent months. Enumerating the challenges in its implementation, discuss whether it can be a potent tool to reduce leakages in the system and address inequality in the economy.

सार्वभौमिक बुनियादी आय के विचार ने हाल ही के महीनों में ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। इसके कार्यान्वयन में आने वाली चुनौतियों को सूचीबद्ध करते हुए चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या यह तंत्र (व्यवस्था) में विद्यमान कमियों को कम करने एवं अर्थव्यवस्था में असमानता को संबोधित करने का एक प्रभावी साधन बन सकती है।

The idea of a Universal Basic Income has been comprehensively discussed in the Economic Survey 2016-17. It involves three aspects:

(i) universality,

(ii) unconditionality,

(iii) agency,

According to the Tendulkar Committee report, 2012 - 22% of India still lives below the poverty line. UBI is enunciated as a potent tool to end it.

Challenges in the implementation →

(i) many people still don't have basic savings account;

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→ delinking income from work might have an adverse effect on labour productivity;

→ increase in conspicuous consumption, esp social evils like tobacco, alcohol, etc;

→ UBI shall incentivise gender disparity inside households;

→ UBI ~~sh~~ can be used as a political tool to indulge in populism;

→ need for inflation-linked otherwise it'll lose its purpose;

The positives →

- reducing misallocation of resources & exclusion errors;
- making people an agency to their

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own ~~parti~~ emancipation;

- rapid poverty alleviation;
- administrative resources could be employed for more productive purposes.

On the whole, the ~~positive~~ positives completely trump the challenges. But a complete UBI should mean cutting other subsidies of the govt. Hence, we can have gradual UBI, starting with the more marginalised sections like old aged people & women, and rectify the cons for a future full implementation.

— x —

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2. A peculiar combination of factors explain India's poor export performance in recent times. Comment. How can the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) help in improving India's share in global trade?

हाल के दिनों में कुछ खास कारणों का एक संयोजन वस्तुतः भारत के दयनीय निर्यात प्रदर्शन की व्याख्या करता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। विदेश व्यापार नीति (2015-20) वैश्विक व्यापार में भारत की हिस्सेदारी में सुधार करने में किस प्रकार सहायता कर सकती है?

Indian exports occupy only 1.7% of global exports, and we faced a trade imbalance of $108 bn, i.e. 5% of our GDP during 2016-17.

The peculiar combination of factors that explain such a poor performance are:

→ global economic slowdown;

→ rise in protectionism, non-trade barriers, and dumping;

→ weak logistics in India;

→ low technology, hence reduced competitiveness of Indian exports;

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→ inability to forge suitable FTAs/ CEPAs/CECAs;

→ environmental/phytosanitary measures/ quality tests;

→ TBS syndrome;

→ appreciation in exchange rates;

The Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) can help in such a situation by:

→ rationalisation of export schemes, such as MEIS, SEIS, TEIS, etc;

→ exports basket diversification based on demand;

→ strengthening our capabilities & utilising lacunae globally;

→ building value chains & focus on logistics;

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Some other measures:

→ GST; Make in India;

→ Bharatmala

→ Sagarmala; Digital India;

→ improving quality of power supply;

→ enabling faster WTO-RCEP-bilateral FTAs;

→ liberalising FDI;

The global economic growth is poised to be 3.8% & 3.9% in the next two FYs, which offers a window of opportunity to raise our exports to the level of 5% of the global basket.

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3. What are Advance Pricing Agreements and how are they related to Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)? Discuss their relevance for India.

एडवांस प्राइसिंग अग्रीमेंट (अग्रिम मूल्य निर्धारण समझौते) क्या हैं और वे बेस इरोजन एंड प्रॉफिट शिफ्टिंग (BEPS) (आधार क्षरण और लाभ का स्थानांतरण) से किस प्रकार संबंधित हैं? भारत के लिए इनकी प्रासंगिकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Advance Pricing Agreements are agreements signed between the Indian tax authorities and the companies about the taxes to be paid at a pre-decided level, which is beneficial to both the parties.

The tax authorities are assured of a minimum level of tax which can help it to fight tax evasion, while the company can now boost its productivity to increase its profits by tax mitigation.

Base erosion and Profiting

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refers to the use of legal loopholes by companies to evade taxes, through instruments like round-tripping, treaty shopping, etc. It's acquired worldwide notoriety, eg. Apple's case in Ireland.

The relevance of such advance pricing agreements for India is:

→ improve the Ease of Doing Business;

→ transparency & accountability among the tax authorities;

→ tax base widens, thus more direct tax collections;

→ poverty alleviation through availability of more resources;

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→ less chances of income tax disputes, eg. Vodafone case;

→ attracting more FDI;

The APAs have today become an important instrument of tax compliance which improve the ease of doing business and help the host country/economy fulfill its tax obligations. They should be strengthened & encouraged.

— x —

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4. What is meant by public debt? Highlight the objectives of public debt management. Explain why it is considered prudent to disaggregate debt management from monetary policy and take it out of the realm of central bank.

सार्वजनिक ऋण से क्या तात्पर्य है? सार्वजनिक ऋण प्रबंधन के उद्देश्यों पर प्रकाश डालिए। व्याख्या कीजिए कि ऋण प्रबंधन को मौद्रिक नीति से पृथक करना एवं केन्द्रीय बैंक की परिधि से बाहर ले जाना विवेकपूर्ण क्यों माना जाता है।

Public debt refers to the sum of ~~liability~~ liabilities of the ~~com~~ government of an economy. It consists of both external and internal debts. Traditionally, the RBI has managed the public debt in India.

The objectives of prudent public debt management are:

- maintaining credible import cover & foreign exchange reserves;
- credible sovereign credit ratings;
- ensuring safety against financial crises;

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- ensuring that public debt ~~that~~ doesn't become a tool for ~~pol~~ political populism;

- ensuring synergy between public debt, economic growth and domestic inflation;

However, of late there have been scholars who have suggested to disaggregate public debt management from monetary policy:

→ the RBI acc to the new MPC framework must focus on managing economic growth & inflation;

→ FRBM legislation already dilutes political populism wrt govt spending;

→ need for counter-cyclic policies to ease deflationary pressures;

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→ the global framework evolving is suggesting divorcing debt management from monetary policy management;

India's public debt to GDP ratio is 68.2%, and is one of the least vulnerable ~~to~~ economies in the one. With the Union govt on a gradual path towards fiscal consolidation, there's a genuine argument to give it the control over public debt management.

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5. There is an urgent need for India to get infrastructure financing, however, the current investment model of PPPs is poorly designed and needs restructuring. Discuss the issues plaguing the success of PPPs with respect to stalled projects, risk management, governance & institutional capacity.

भारत को अवसंरचना वित्तपोषण प्राप्त करने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है, लेकिन सार्वजनिक निजी भागीदारी (PPPs) का वर्तमान निवेश मॉडल असंतोषजनक रूप से डिजाईन (अभिकल्पित) किया गया है और इसे पुनर्संरचित करने की आवश्यकता है। अवरुद्ध परियोजनाओं, जोखिम प्रबंधन, गवर्नेंस (शासन) एवं संस्थागत क्षमता के संबंध में PPPs की सफलता में बाधक बने मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

"You and I come from Rail and Road, But Economists travel by Infrastructure."

— Margaret Thatcher

The above quote amply signifies the importance of suitable, quality and accessible infrastructure for economic growth. In the Budget 2017-18, GoI has allocated Rs 3,96,000 crores to the infra sector, but it's woefully inadequate as India needs funds worth $1.5 trillion till 2030, for producing quality infra to sustain the economic growth.

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The issues facing the current investment models of PPPs such as EPC, BoT, etc. are:

→ delays in land acquisition & environmental clearances;

→ TBS syndrome;

→ technology constraints;

→ coordination b/w jurisdictions & authorities;

→ impediments to ease of doing business due to lack of transparency & accountability;

The solutions can be:

→ liberalising FDI;

→ hybrid annuity model;

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→ implementing Kelkar committee report: special institute for R&D, dispute resolution, SIA & EIA assessments, etc;

→ long term finance banking;

→ recapitalisation of PSBs;

→ multi-agency & multi-govt consultations;

→ improving the case of Doing Business;

A revitalised investment model of PPPs can help India achieve its potential of 10% annual growth in the medium term.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. What are the reasons behind a low tax base in India? Discuss the issues associated with it and the steps required to widen the tax base.

भारत में निम्नस्तरीय कर आधार के क्या कारण हैं? इससे संबद्ध मुद्दों एवं कर आधार को विस्तारित करने के लिए आवश्यक क़दमों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

According to the latest data, only 7 out of 100 voters pay income tax in India. The tax to GDP ratio of 11.3% in India is very low as compared to its emerging market peers (16.6%) and OECD economies (22%).

The reasons behind a low tax base in India are:

→ complex tax laws that deter tax compliance;

→ inadequate state capacity to undertake effective taxation;

→ corruption and lack of transparency & accountability;

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→ political populism, such as keeping the threshold limit of individual income tax very low

→ not utilising tax avenues properly, eg. house tax (property tax);

→ tax evasion through utilising ~~tax~~ legal loopholes;

→ trust deficit b/w the citizens & the state;

The steps required to widen the tax base in India are:

→ simplify tax laws and ensure tax compliance, eg. GST;

→ develop adequate state capacity & strengthen it, while maintaining a system of checks & balances;

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→ using non-conventional tax avenues properly like property tax;

→ strict action against tax evaders, shell companies;

→ incentives for honest taxmen and honest tax payers;

→ rejecting political populism;

→ bridge trust deficit b/w citizens & state;

The implementation of the above suggestions must be carried out on a war scale to enable poverty alleviation & high levels of economic growth in India.

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7. Even though the construction sector has significant multiplier effect on the economy, in recent years, it has been showing signs of stress. What are the causes for such a state of affairs? In this context, also highlight the steps taken by the government.

यद्यपि निर्माण क्षेत्रक का अर्थव्यवस्था पर महत्वपूर्ण गुणक प्रभाव होता है, लेकिन हाल के वर्षों में यह दबाव के लक्षण दर्शाता रहा है। इस प्रकार की स्थिति के लिए कौन-से कारण जिम्मेदार हैं? इस संदर्भ में, सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

The construction sector has a significant multiplier effect on the economy bcz of its ~~signi~~ multiple forward & backward linkages, labour-intensive nature, and convergence with other sectors such as electricity / energy, ~~infrast~~ communications, transport, housing, etc.

However, in recent years, it has been showing signs of stress, bcz:

- TBS syndrome;
- Demonetisation;

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- delays in land acquisition & environmental clearances;
- administrative apathy due to corruption & lack of transparency & accountability;
- lack of pvt finance, technology, management;
- lack of FDI;
- GST;
- ambivalence in public sector regarding pvt sector participation;

However, the govt has taken a no. of steps in this regard:

- Rs 3.96 lakh crore allocated to infrastructure sector in Budget 2017-18;
- Real Estate (Regulation & Dev) Act, 2016;

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- Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)
- Infrastructure Investment Trusts;
- liberalising FDI; BHARATMALA; SAGARMALA;
- recapitalisation of PSBs under Mission Indradhanush; Setu Bharatam;
- PM Awas Yojana, Smart Cities Mission, Swachha Bharat Mission (Urban & Rural), MGNREGS, AMRUT, HRIDAY, etc

It's the construction sector that'll build bridges on which India can ~~achieve~~ walk a high-level sustainable growth trajectory. Hence govt must be who to revitalise PPP according to Kelkar committee report.

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8. The worsening road safety situation in India is further complicated by an increasing population and proliferation of vehicles on the road. Discuss. Also, highlight the steps that are being taken by the government to address the issue of road safety and reduce the associated fatalities.

भारत में सड़क सुरक्षा की बिगड़ती स्थिति, बढ़ती जनसंख्या और सड़क पर वाहनों की संख्या में बढ़ोत्तरी के कारण और अधिक जटिल हो जाती है। चर्चा कीजिए। सरकार द्वारा सड़क सुरक्षा के मुद्दों से निपटने एवं इनसे संबद्ध मृत्यु की घटनाओं को कम करने हेतु उठाए जा रहे कदमों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

The worsening road safety situation in the country is illustrated amply by the following statistics →

- 17 deaths due to road mishaps per hour, 2016
- 55 road accidents per hour, 2016
- 1.5 lakh fatalities in road accidents in 2016, an increase of 3.3%.

The above stats have been released by the Union Ministry of Road Transport. The causes behind ~~these~~ this grim situation are:

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- during 2005-15, pvt vehicle registration have increased by 10%, while road lengths have increased by only 3.75%;
- decrease in public transportation facilities;
- decrease in freight traffic → more congestion on roads;
- the National Highways are overburdened;
- poor quality of material used in construction;
- poor quality of drivers, who get DLs made through bribes;
- disregard to scientific methodology while planning roads & traffic signals

According to World Bank, since 46.3% fatalities are in the age group 18-35, the road accidents in India cause a loss of up to 3% of GDP to India's economic growth every year.

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→ Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act;

→ augmentation of national highways

→ PM Gram Sadak Yojana;

→ Bharatmala;

→ Setu Bharatam;

→ strict implementation of traffic laws;

→ stringent supervision & auditing of materials used for ~~military~~ construction

The Union govt has allocated 25% of the total budget of transport sector (Rs 2.41 lakh crore) to upgrade roads but more needs to be done quickly to prevent loss of productive resources.

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9. Briefly highlight the parameters used by the government to determine the extent of poverty in India. Examine the relationship of economic growth and poverty alleviation in the post-reforms era.

सरकार द्वारा भारत में निर्धनता की सीमा का निर्धारण करने हेतु उपयोग किए जाने वाले मानदंडों (पैरामीटर) पर संक्षेप में प्रकाश डालिए। आर्थिक सुधारों के बाद के युग में आर्थिक संवृद्धि और निर्धनता उन्मूलन के बीच संबंध का परीक्षण कीजिए।

According to official estimates, there were 70% people living below the poverty line at the time of independence. Since then, govt has used NSSO data to determine the extent of poverty in India.

The expert committees set up evaluate the periodic NSSO data to give a economic figure to the poverty line – the Alagh committee, the Tendulkar, and the Rangarajan committees. Currently, according to the Tendulkar committee, 22% people are BPL in India (NSSO, 2011-12).

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The Tendulkar committee used consumption & expenditure data of households to determine the following figures:

- urban → Rs 1000 per month per individual
- rural → Rs 810 per month per individual

The recently conducted Socio-economic and Caste Census has enumerated poverty on the basis of seven different deprivations such as ~~too~~ pucca house, literacy, etc. It's more suitable in the Indian context.

The relationship between economic growth and poverty alleviation in post-reforms era:

- overall levels of poverty declined, but inequality increased; Oxfam report: 1% Indians at top have 58% of

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total economic wealth;

- region-wise disparities in poverty reduction; peninsular states are better off than northern & eastern states;
- trickle-down theory model has failed;
- per capita income has risen more than 200 times but men have 4 times incomes as women;
- rise in informal labour has exacerbated the problem, bcz catastrophic health emergencies, or social obligations, or economic distress often push the family BPL;

There's need to target govt subsidies using SECC data & have an economic growth which is more ~~equall~~ equal, esp gender-wise.

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10. Explain why the government has adopted the HELP in place of the NELP that was existing for almost a decade. Also discuss how HELP has the potential to transform India's E&P activities with special emphasis on non-conventional sources of energy.

व्याख्या कीजिए कि सरकार ने लगभग एक दशक से विद्यमान NELP के स्थान पर HELP को क्यों अपनाया है? साथ ही, ऊर्जा के गैर-परम्परागत स्रोतों पर विशेष जोर देते हुए चर्चा कीजिए कि HELP में भारत की E&P (अन्वेषण एवं उत्पादन) गतिविधियों को रूपांतरित करने की क्षमता किस प्रकार विद्यमान है।

India today imports 80% and 40% of its crude oil & natural gas requirements respectively. This rise in the import bill has been due to declining production from the small & marginal oil fields in India, esp the onshore ones. This happened because NELP had many restrictions, wasn't market friendly & couldn't attract much investments.

The Hydrocarbons Exploration Licensing Policy adopted by the govt

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recently overcomes the limitations of NELP by:

- revenue sharing model, hence increased govt's facilitating help;
- National Data Repository shall provide high quality data;
- open acreage policy;
- one single license for all hydrocarbons;
- marketing & selling freedom for production from small & marginal blocks;

This market friendly policy can attract investments at a time when the govt has scarcity of funds.

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HELP's impact on non-conventional sources of energy:

→ ~~coalbed~~ shale gas;

→ gas hydrates;

→ coalbed methane;

The above non-conventional sources can now be extracted because of the uniform licensing policy. It'd help reduce our energy import bill to Rs 10,000 crore by 2020, as envisaged in budget 2017-18.

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11. Successive governments have resorted to disinvestment of sick and loss-making PSUs. What, according to you, are the targets which the government seek to meet from this exercise? Also explain why the disinvestment targets have not been met in the past.

क्रमागत सरकारों ने बीमार और घाटे में चल रहे PSUs के विनिवेश का सहारा लिया है। आपके अनुसार, इस कार्यकरण से सरकार कौन-से लक्ष्य प्राप्त करना चाहती है? साथ ही, व्याख्या कीजिए कि विगत वर्षों में विनिवेश के लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त क्यों नहीं किया गया है।

Disinvestment refers to the dilution of a share of stock of a CPSE by the govt. When the govt's stake falls below 51%, it's called strategic disinvestment. In 2016-17, some 200 CPSEs have posted a combined profit of Rs 1.4 trillion, while another 60-odd CPSEs have posted a combined loss of Rs 247 billion, and hence ~~the~~ some of them are ideally suited for disinvestment.

Targets of disinvestment exercise:

- prudent fiscal management;
- prudent public debt management;

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- utilising govt resources in the most productive enterprises;
- bringing efficiency & competition in the market;
- lowering PSBs debt sheets;
- bringing pvt finance, technology, HR/ management;
- labour efficiency & re-skilling;

The govt set a target of Rs 56.5 thousand crores divestment during 2016-17, and it could achieve only Rs 46.5k crores, which includes spectrum auction fees also. The reasons for the failures are:

- setting too ambitious target;
- ambivalence about private sector;
- not going for strategic sale, which can really attract pvt investments;

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- Chakravyuha challenge of Indian economy;
- inadequate inter-agency coordination;

~~Divest~~ Disinvestment is an important economic exercise to increase economic growth by bringing efficiency & competition. The DIPAM must focus on the target of Rs 72500 crores set for 2017-18 through a multistakeholder consensus process to get positive results;

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12. What is hydroponics? Discuss its relevance in light of limited land availability while ensuring food security.

हाइड्रोपोनिक्स (hydroponics) क्या है? सीमित भूमि उपलब्धता की दृष्टि से खाद्य सुरक्षा को सुनिश्चित करने हेतु इसकी प्रासंगिकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Hydroponics refers to growing of crops in soil inundated by water.

Given the risks to agriculture because of climate change, it can be of great significance in 21st century.

→ resistant against climate vagaries of intense rainfall & floods, eg. Bihar, Assam, etc

→ reduce pressure on land, eg. Delhi, Mumbai;

→ adequate use of wetlands, at the same time ensuring conservation of wetlands;

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→ utilise delta plains, river flood plains;

→ can be used in conjunction with aquaculture to diversify farmers's incomes & nutrition supplements;

→ no adverse effect on ground water tables or leaching of hazardous chemical fertilisers;

→ integrated farm management;

The technique should be encouraged through active pvt sector collaboration via finance, technology & skilled manpower. National Action Plan on Agriculture, NAP on Sustainable

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Ecosystem & NAP on Water can converge to explore & tap the true potential of hydroponics.

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13. It is argued by many that there is an urgent need for states to reform land laws and, in particular, tenancy laws. What are the factors cited for the need of such reforms? Identify the impediments in the way of such reforms and highlight the benefits that would accrue from them.

कई लोगों द्वारा यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि राज्यों को भूमि कानूनों, विशेष रूप से काश्तकारी (tenancy) कानूनों में सुधार करने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है। इस प्रकार के सुधारों की आवश्यकता के लिए कौन-से कारकों को उद्धृत किया जाता है? ऐसे सुधारों के मार्ग में आने वाली बाधाओं की पहचान कीजिए एवं इनसे प्राप्त होने वाले लाभों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

72% of landholdings in India belong to those of small & marginal farmers. They neither can invest in mechanisation, nor can indulge in commercial cultivation. As a result, there's an urgent need to reform land laws.

The land laws suggested are:

- contract farming;
- tenancy acts;
- consolidation of landholdings;

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Impediments:

- lack of political & bureaucratic will;
- complex caste & religious mix that makes it too ambitious a political call;
- lack of digitisation of land records;
- regional diversities, hence a bottom-up approach required ideally;
- land & agriculture are 2 state subject and weak cooperative federalism;

The benefits that'd accrue from these reforms are:

→ ability to indulge in extensive commercial cultivation;

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- mechanisation of farms;
- better efficiency of irrigation, fertilisers;
- crop & livestock diversification;
- income & nutritional security against vagaries of nature;
- potential of agroforestry, mixed farming, Integrated Farm Management;

The Union must hold a multistakeholders consensus process with the States, similar to GST council, to undertake these pioneering reforms.

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14. Discuss the potential of horticulture sector in realizing the government's vision of doubling the farm income. Also, highlight the challenges which are needed to be addressed for realizing full potential of this sector.

कृषि आय को दोगुना करने की सरकार की परिकल्पना को साकार करने में बागवानी (हॉर्टिकल्चर) क्षेत्रक की क्षमता पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस क्षेत्रक की सम्पूर्ण क्षमता को वास्तविकता में परिणत करने के लिए उन चुनौतियों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए जिनसे निपटना आवश्यक है।

The Horticulture sector promises a huge untapped potential to realise govt's vision of doubling farm incomes because its products command one of the best prices in both domestic & int'l markets, and adequate policy support can help this sector achieve new heights.

- the area under horticulture has increased by 10% in the last five years ~~and~~ as compared to 6% in food crops;
- its production growth is 6% per annum
- its acreage growth is 3.1% per annum;

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Challenges realised in this sector:

- perishable nature of commodities, hence risks to market fluctuations/prices;
- access to formal credit;
- access to technology & seeds, tissues, saplings;
- adequate marketing & organised retail;
- competition with food ~~F~~ crops wrt remuneration;
- lack of clear Agri export policy;
- food quality standards wrt Codex;
- logistics infra;

To address the challenges, govt has taken the following steps:

- Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture ~~F~~ (MIDH) →

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to give access to tech, finance, seeds/ tissues/saplings;

- cold chains & good infra modernisation;
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana to boost organic cultivation;
- Soil Health Cards;
- Integrated Nutrient Management;
- Integrated Pest Management

The sector can be further harnessed by ~~evolving~~ conceiving an ambitious AgriTrade export policy to give incentive farmers and also denotify perishables from APMCs.

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15. Not only does the yield (measured in tonnes/ha.) of a crop but a number of other factors determine the choice of crops that a farmer cultivates. Elaborate with special focus on cropping pattern in India.

एक किसान द्वारा उपजाई जाने वाली फसलों के चयन को न केवल फसल की उपज (टन/हेक्टेयर में मापी गयी) अपितु कई अन्य कारक भी निर्धारित करते हैं। भारत में प्रचलित फसल प्रतिरूपों (पैटर्न) पर विशेष ध्यान केन्द्रित करते हुए विस्तारपूर्वक व्याख्या कीजिए।

Cropping pattern refers to the system of crops & land fallow at a particular instance of time/season. It is affected by seasons, particularly the kharif (summer) & rabi (winter) in India.

Traditionally, the yield of a crop was the prime factor in selection of crop choices during the medieval ages when the population to land ratio was very high. But during colonial rule and since independence, a plethora of other factors work in combination in

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choice of crops that the farmer cultivates.

(i) MSPs → incentivises cereal production like rice, wheat, etc.

(ii) availability of irrigation → incentivises crops like sugarcane, cotton;

(iii) fertile alluvial → jute
black soil → cotton
∴ soil conditions

(iv) commercialisation / market potential, eg. cotton, silk, pulses; oilseeds;

(v) crop rotation to conserve soil fertility, eg. pulses

(vi) organic farming, eg. fruits & vegetables

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(vii) rainfall patterns →

- dryland → millets
- uplands → paddy

(viii) availability of credit → intercropping or mixed cropping

(ix) past prices, which leads to supply & demand fluctuations; eg. onions

(x) availability of inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc

There's a definite argument for making available to farmers all over India all the basic inputs for farming & giving clear price & policy signals so that his/her labour fetches adequate remunerative prices.

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16. Discuss the significance of food processing industry in the economic development of the country and the challenges which need to be tackled for sustained growth of the industry. Also elaborate on the the salient features of National Mission on Food Processing.

देश के आर्थिक विकास में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग के महत्व के साथ-साथ उन चुनौतियों की भी चर्चा कीजिए जिनसे निपटना इस उद्योग के संधारणीय विकास हेतु आवश्यक है। राष्ट्रीय खाद्य प्रसंस्करण मिशन की प्रमुख विशेषताओं की विस्तारपूर्वक व्याख्या कीजिए।

The food processing industry is still a 'sunrise' sector in India, given its untapped potential and the gradual realisation among policy makers, pvt enterprises & farmers about the different ways through which potential can be sustainably tapped.

The significance of the food processing industry are:

- job creation → millions of direct & indirect;
- rising purchasing power, new food tastes, etc promise huge avenues for growth;
- abundance of different varieties of raw

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materials due to different agroclimatic zones in India;

- can be a great foreign exchange earner if the produce is adequately marketed abroad;
- poverty alleviation, doubling farm incomes, reducing regional disparities in farm incomes, sustainable development, etc can all be accomplished through harnessing this industry;
- forward & backward linkages can also revitalise PPPs;

The challenges are:

- access to formal credit, technology, skilled manpower;
- lack of organised retail & marketing linkages;
- absence of clear price & policy signals;

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- invasion of globalisation → fast food culture like Chinese, Italian, Spanish;
- ambivalence about pvt sector participation;
- TBS & GST;

To give a big impetus to the food processing sector, the National Mission on Food Processing has been launched.

→ liberalising ~~foo~~ FDI in food retail;

→ Agroexport zones;

→ ~~Mission for~~ cold chains & modernisation of abbatoirs;

→ credit facilities;

→ access to technology & skilled personnel

Food processing offers not just a valuable domestic, but an invaluable global opportunity to increase India's exports to 5% of global basket.

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17. Financial support to farmers through various instruments has been a crucial aspect of agricultural policy of the government. Examine whether the proposal of moving towards direct transfer of benefits and universal crop insurance would alleviate the existing concerns in the current scenario.

विभिन्न साधनों के माध्यम से किसानों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना सरकार की कृषि नीति का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू रहा है। परीक्षण कीजिए कि क्या प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण और सार्वभौमिक फसल बीमा की ओर कदम बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव वर्तमान परिदृश्य में विद्यमान चिंताओं को कम कर पाएगा?

"The Indian economy is a gamble in the rains". Therefore, agriculture & the allied sector which employs more than 50% of the total workforce are exposed vulnerable to the vagaries of nature, and inefficient market dynamics. As a result, financial support to farmers is given through various instruments like:

→ MSPs;

→ subsidy in fertilizers such as urea;

→ crop insurance, like PMFBY, NAIS, MNAIS etc.

However, the above measures have bore only mixed results;

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→ corruption & leakages;

→ misallocation of resources;

→ exclusion errors; eg. crop insurance

→ problems of exit, eg. fertiliser plants

→ harmful effects to ~~environment~~ soil, eg. urea subsidy

→ decrease in water tables, eg. MSPs for cereal crops;

looking at and analysing the good & the bad effects of the above policy measures, there are a no. of proposals from scholars, economists & farmers' groups to move towards ~~direct~~ DBT & universal crop insurance.

→ benefit the small & marginalised farmers

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instead of the rich & non-needy ones;

→ demand based subsidies/help instead of supply based;

→ prevent black-marketeering & corruption;

→ prevent wastage of resources, eg. water in paddy irrigation

→ making farmers an agency in their own emancipation, i.e. bottom-up approach not hand-down approach;

According to Economic Survey, only 25% of the Rs 70,000 crore annual urea (fertiliser) subsidy of GoI reaches the farmers actually in need. It's high time to use DBT-JAM to plug leakages & improve efficiencies, at least in the CSS.

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18. Buffer stocking of food grains is seen as a vehicle to deliver strategic food and agricultural domestic support policies, however, there is a growing consensus that the programme has been not just costly but also imprudently wasteful. Critically evaluate.

खाद्यानों के सुरक्षित भंडारण (बफर स्टॉकिंग) को खाद्य एवं कृषि संबंधी रणनीतिक घरेलू समर्थन नीतियाँ प्रदान करने के साधन के रूप में देखा गया है, लेकिन इस संबंध में यह मतैक्य बनता जा रहा है कि यह कार्यक्रम न केवल महँगा बल्कि अविवेकपूर्ण रूप से अपव्ययी भी रहा है। आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Buffer stocking of food grains by the Food Corporation of India is done to accomplish the following purposes:

- ensure accessibility/affordability/availability of food to marginalised sections;
- national food security
- remunerative MSPs ~~by~~ to the farmers;

The system has been appreciated by UNDP bcz it enhances human rights, helps people during times of distress such as disasters/famines, poverty alleviation and boosts rural consumption through enhancing farmers' purchasing power.

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However, economists have critiqued the buffer stocking mechanism.

→ MSPs promote intensive cultivation of cereal crops which is unsustainable & damages environment;

→ Food security needs don't require as much buffer storage as pre-1991 bcz of diversification of food basket;

→ corruption, leakages and misallocation of resources;

→ inefficient TPDS system in most states;

→ due to lack of quality logistics n/w, the system doesn't work properly

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There's a need to improve the existing buffer stocking of food grains through:

→ pulses & oilseeds needed to be incorporated in more proportion;

→ improve logistics;

→ using DBT-JAM;

→ better & efficient TPDS, eg. Chattisgarh model

→ rationalising MSPs

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19. Discuss the lacunae in implementation of Minimum Wages Act in ensuring the welfare of agricultural labour. Also, suggest some other measures to improve the situation of agricultural labourers in the country.

कृषि श्रमिकों के कल्याण को सुनिश्चित करने की दिशा में न्यूनतम मजदूरी अधिनियम के कार्यान्वयन में विद्यमान कमियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, देश में कृषि मजदूरों की स्थिति सुधारने हेतु कुछ अन्य उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

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20. In spite of having the world's largest livestock population in India, the potential of animal rearing remains underutilized. In this context, discuss the challenges faced by the meat and poultry sector and suggest measures for accelerated and sustained growth for this sector.

भारत में विश्व की सर्वाधिक पशुधन संख्या होने के बावजूद भी पशुपालन क्षमता का पूर्ण दोहन नहीं किया जा सका है। इस संदर्भ में मांस तथा कुक्कुट क्षेत्रक द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए एवं इस क्षेत्रक की त्वरित एवं संधारणीय वृद्धि के लिए उपाय सुझाइए।

Mixed farming with the help of the world's largest livestock population provides security of incomes to the farmers and takes care of their nutritional needs. However, there are a plethora of challenges faced by the meat and poultry sector that render the potential of animal rearing in India, underutilized.

→ lack of access to formal credit to make long term investments;

→ lack of technology to utilise livestock resource agronomically;

→ poor health & yield of livestock;

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→ lack of access to marketing & organised retail due to absence of value chains;

→ restrictions on interstate trade, bcz of archaic divestate trading laws which subject them to price risks;

→ social orthodoxy such as cow vigilantism;

→ poor transport infrastructure;

The measures for accelerated and sustained growth for this sector:

→ relaxing trading norms, thus allowing interstate trade & freedom to sell produce to anyone;

→ formal credit for long term investment;

→ developing cold chains for protection against fluctuations in demand & supply;

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→ spread of technology among farmers;

→ vaccinations & medical care for livestock;

→ developing logistics infra;

→ modernisation of abattoirs;

→ quality testing standards according to CODEX to boost exports.

We need an unambiguous Agri-Trade policy to boost domestic consumption & exports of meat & poultry to ensure remunerative prices for farmers & rapid poverty alleviation.

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